Boho Chic

BOHO Home

Destination Inspiration

BOHO STYLE, DECOR, LIVING & ENTERTAINING

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BOHO ROOM BY ROOM

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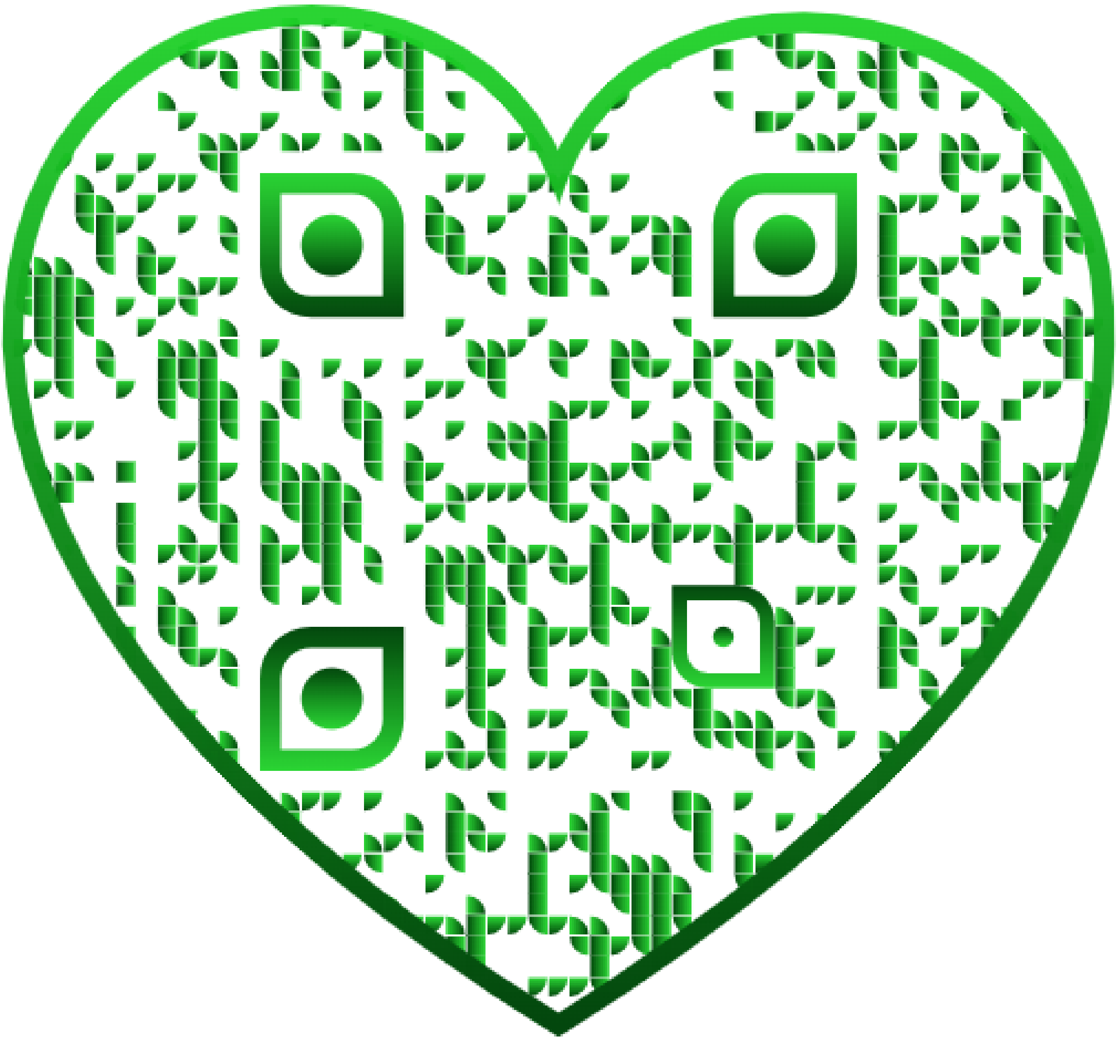

BOHO Home

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Bo-he-mi-an (n.) A person, such as an artist, writer or creative, who lives and acts free of regard for conventional rules and practices; a wanderer, a vagabond, a free spirit, an open-minded thinker

Bohemian-inspired design isn't a trend—it's a lifestyle.

THE AESTHETIC that accompanies the philosophy is fluid, colorful, mostly maximalist and creative. Boho mojo celebrates authenticity of purpose and spirit, art in all its forms, travel, literature and the charm of imperfection.

The only rule: there are no rules.

Freedom and self-expression reign, and the concepts of structure and formality are secondary to relaxed layers of color, pattern and texture. The defining characteristics of the boho tribe inform everything from home decor and design choices to dining preferences, entertaining styles and beyond.

The effect is whimsical, wonderful and warm. Comfort is key. Storytelling is paramount, and using the elements of touch, taste, sight, sound and scent in interior design to tell your stories is celebrated.

Boho Home will inspire you to live in a creatively curated space that exudes an attitude of abundance and joy. We will also explore the history of the first bohemian trailblazers and take note of the influencers who continue to push this trend forward today. The chapters ahead will serve as a jumping-off point for finding the people, places and things that will make your imagination soar and help you find your authentic style. On a more practical note, you will learn how to incorporate casual chic, modern, eclectic style—and lots of plants—into lovingly updated home design and decor.

Tips for gathering the tribe and throwing the ultimate boho bash will also be served up along with inventive ideas for food, drinks and table decor.

Let the journey begin.

> Be daring, be different, be impractical, be anything that will insert integrity of purpose and imaginative vision against the play-it-safers, the creatures of the commonplace, the slaves of the ordinary.
>
> —Sir Cecil Beaton British photographer and bohemian

The Bohemians

Necessity has always been the mother of invention—and it was creativity born of need that inspired the original bohemians.

to Boho Chic

Once Upon a Time

When economic crisis starkly divided the people of France into haves and have-nots during the French Revolution of 1848, the creative class of writers, artists and musicians lost the support of well-to-do benefactors and found themselves plunged into poverty. The struggle was real.

THEIR TRIUMPH, however, became the source of endless fascination—and, of course, the bohemian spirit and boho chic style we covet today.

Creative to the core, those original bohos cobbled together a life, recycling, repurposing and reusing what they had while abandoning what was no longer needed—most notably, the obligation to conform to society's expectations.

Bold, unapologetic and strikingly *different*, their outward appearance was defined by clothes adorned with riotous prints, wild colors, flowing layers, Asian-inspired accessories and folkloric trims. It was a look that confused many into believing the artists were *Bohemians*—members of the wandering nomadic tribes who rode in folksy painted wagons and traveled from nearby Eastern Europe, aka Bohemia. These travelers lived communally, eschewed possessions and were skilled in storytelling, music and mysticism.

The artists, of course, were not Bohemians, but the name and the association stuck. Somehow, in spite of the hardship, their style was observed with grudging admiration. Boho chic was born. Some people can make almost anything look cool!

For generations, the legacy of the bohemian style has evolved, and like so many things under the sun, its popularity has ebbed and flowed. Today, the colors, prints, patterns and textures that define boho chic remain, while its global influences are more varied and inspired than ever.

Destination Inspiration

Travel inspires.

It is also an integral part of the bohemian lifestyle. These five fabulous locations, which embody the essence of boho color, lifestyle, passions, design obsessions, attitude and history, will help inform your boho style at home.

Mexico City, Mexico

Mexico City has more museums than almost any other destination, including the colorfully eclectic La Casa Azul, the Frida Kahlo museum in the Coyoacán neighborhood that was once home to two of the country's most famous painters, Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera.

The Mexican capital also hosts numerous colorful and culturally significant festivals throughout the year, including the world-famous Festival del Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), Festival del Centro Histórico, and major film, music and art events.

Shop for hand-embroidered fabrics, table runners, pillows and clothing, silver jewelry, Mexican folk art, pierced paper pennants, brightly colored handmade hammocks, embroidered handbags, margarita glasses, mezcal (an alcohol like tequila), Mexican drinking chocolate, pottery.

Bali, Indonesia

Bali, also known as "Valley of the Gods," is home to thousands of Hindu temples which dot the Indonesian island along with waterfalls, eco resorts and volcanoes. Buffeted by world-class waves, this destination is all about soaking in the beauty of nature and unplugging from the frenetic pace of everyday life. Yoga, biking, climbing a volcano, snorkeling, surfing, exploring a waterfall, touring a cave and going to the spa are a must! Options abound for embracing the gifts of the natural world.

Shop for handmade ceramics; batik textiles and goods; Shibori (a Japanese hand-dyeing technique) fabrics and goods; intricately carved Balinese wooden screens, furniture and decor; woven rattan baskets, placemats and accessories; organic Balinese coffee beans; carved wooden masks; a surfboard (if you're willing to lug it home); a tattoo.

Barcelona, Spain

An explosion of color, pattern and whimsical, organic shapes, Antonio Gaudi's architecture graces many of Barcelona's most famous and uniquely designed buildings and spaces. His aesthetic embraces the uber-creative and bohemian philosophy of more is more: ornately embellished and delightfully decadent. Creativity abounds. Experience a meditative stroll through Parc del Laberint d'Horta, a life-sized labyrinth; grab a drink at historic Bar Marsella, where both Picasso and Hemingway once sat; take a funicular to the summit of Tibidabo to see the dramatically gothic Temple of the Sacred Heart of Jesus—and ride a ferris wheel.

Shop for modernist-inspired ceramics; porcelain figurines (Lladro, Nadal); traditional Catalonian biscuits; leather shoes and boots; a long-spouted wine *porron* (once used for drinking wine with a group, now more commonly put to use for pouring olive oil, or as a pitcher); the sparkling wine known as cava; handmade *espardenyes* (aka espadrilles); flamenco castanets.

Shopping Vintage

THE FRENCH BOHEMIAN ARTISTS who first made the idea of "reuse, recycle, repurpose" popular were definitely trailblazers. Channeling their savvy chic is now more in than ever. To begin with, there are no production delays when shopping vintage. Immediate gratification! Purchasing unique clothing, decor, art and furnishing means one-of-a-kind personal style. Vintage goods have soul, character and a cool patina of history and age. You are also giving back when you shop vintage. The Environmental Protection Agency reports that Americans throw away 16 million tons of textile waste (fabrics) each year. Some is recycled or shipped overseas, but 3 million tons are incinerated for disposal and 10 million tons sent to a landfill. **Just say no to fast fashion.** And finally, although some vintage finds fetch top dollar (i.e., Chanel, Valentino, YSL), you can usually save money shopping secondhand. Check out thrift stores, vintage flea markets, garage sales and a growing number of online purveyors selling gently used clothing and cool home decor.

"Not all who wander are lost."

—J.R.R. Tolkien

California's Gold Coast

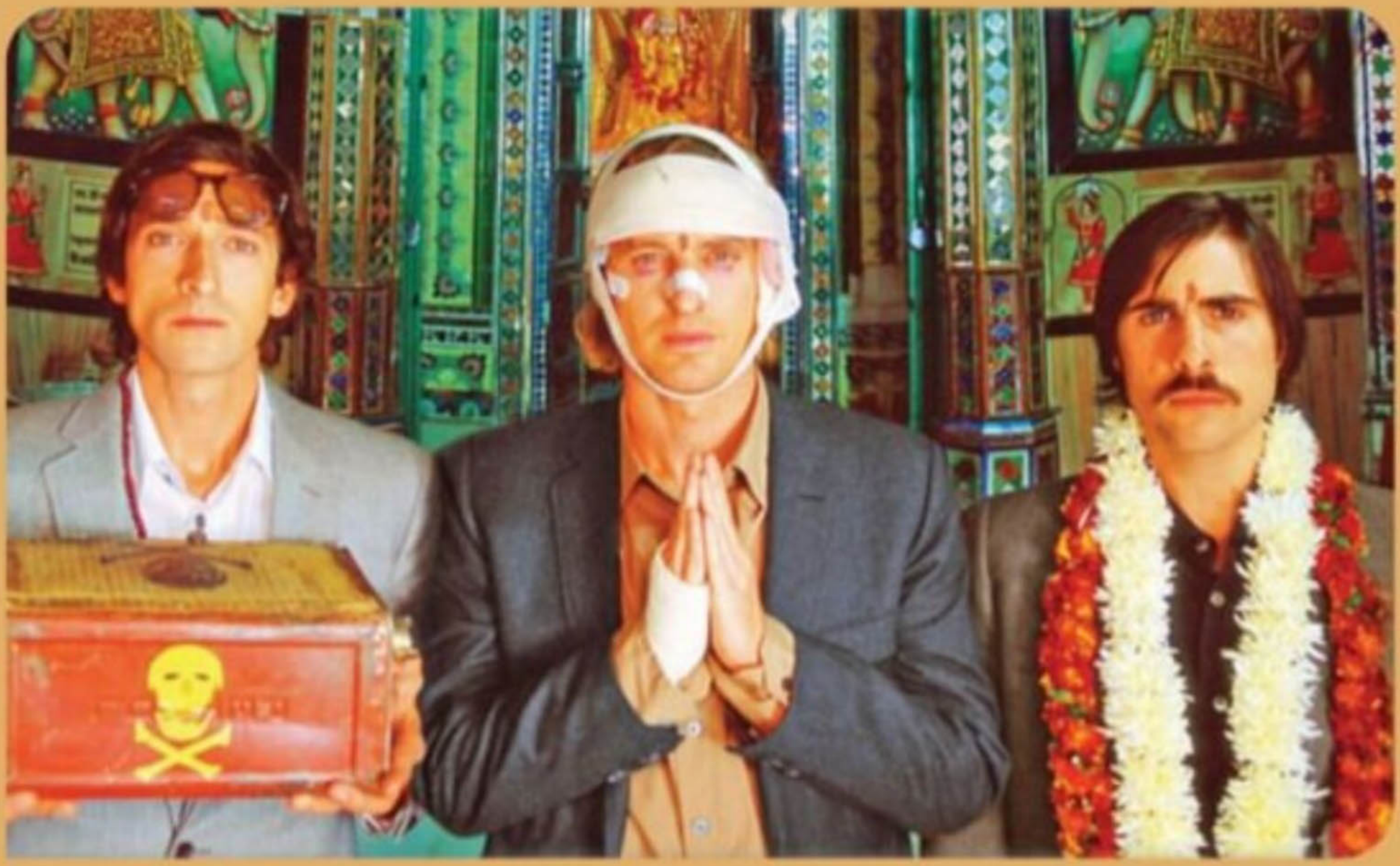
The Central California coastline stretching from Point Mugu to Monterey Bay is connected by the famous Pacific Coast Highway (Highway 1), a curvaceous, scenic drive through some of the most beautiful and rugged landscape in the West. Life seems to slow where the dramatic, rocky coastline plunges into the sea amid the wildness and beauty of nature. Book a place at a world-class luxury resort (with prices to match), stay in a yurt or find a place to camp. Watch the elephant seals vie for spots along the beach in San Luis Obispo, go for a hike in Big Sur, go birdwatching at one of several nature preserves, lie in a hammock, walk the beach, visit the Monarch Butterfly Preserve, or just roll the windows down and drive.

Shop for original art by local artists, craft beer, books like *On the Road* or *Big Sur* by Jack Kerouac, mobiles made of seashells or sea glass, macramé plant hangers, wind chimes, pottery, vintage finds.

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Tulips. Bands of wildly vibrant flower fields within a short drive from one of the most eclectic, hipster-chic and bohemian cities in the world. Soak up the bright, electric color seen in floating flower markets, painted buildings and boats, NDSM Wharf and the Moco Museum. Check out the Van Gogh Museum and Rembrandt's original Amsterdam home (now a museum), visit the Dutch masters at the Rijksmuseum, find plant paradise at the Hortus Botanical Garden, stroll trendy de Pijp neighborhood, ride a bike, tilt at windmills.

Shop for custom clogs, vintage clothes, tulip bulbs, Delft Blue china, cheese knives or a slicer, charcuterie boards, a bike basket, original art, handmade gifts from the Dutch Christmas markets.



BOX OFFICE BOHO

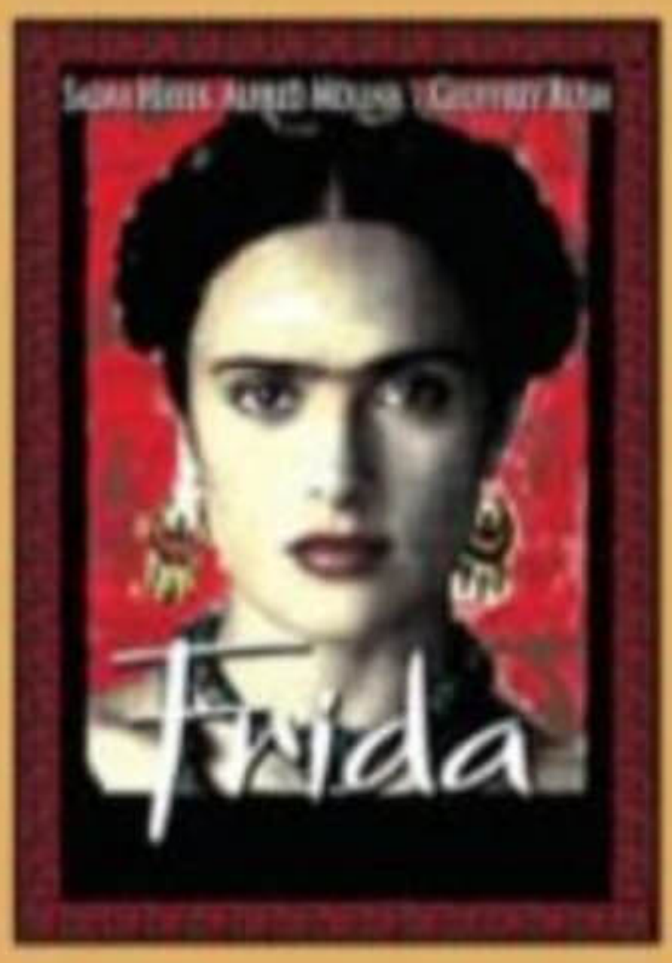
Movies inspire, entertain and educate. These films, with their focus on color, travel, art, music and design, are the ultimate in bohemian binge-watching. Imagine your own home as magical as these surroundings and start decorating!

The Darjeeling Limited (2007)

A year after their father's funeral, three very different brothers travel across India by train in an attempt to bond.(R)

Eat, Pray, Love (2010)

One woman's adventurous search for passion, self and meaning across Italy, India and Indonesia. (PG-13)



Frida (2002)

A biography of artist Frida Kahlo, who channeled the pain of a crippling injury and her tempestuous marriage into her work. (R)

The Motorcycle Diaries (2004)

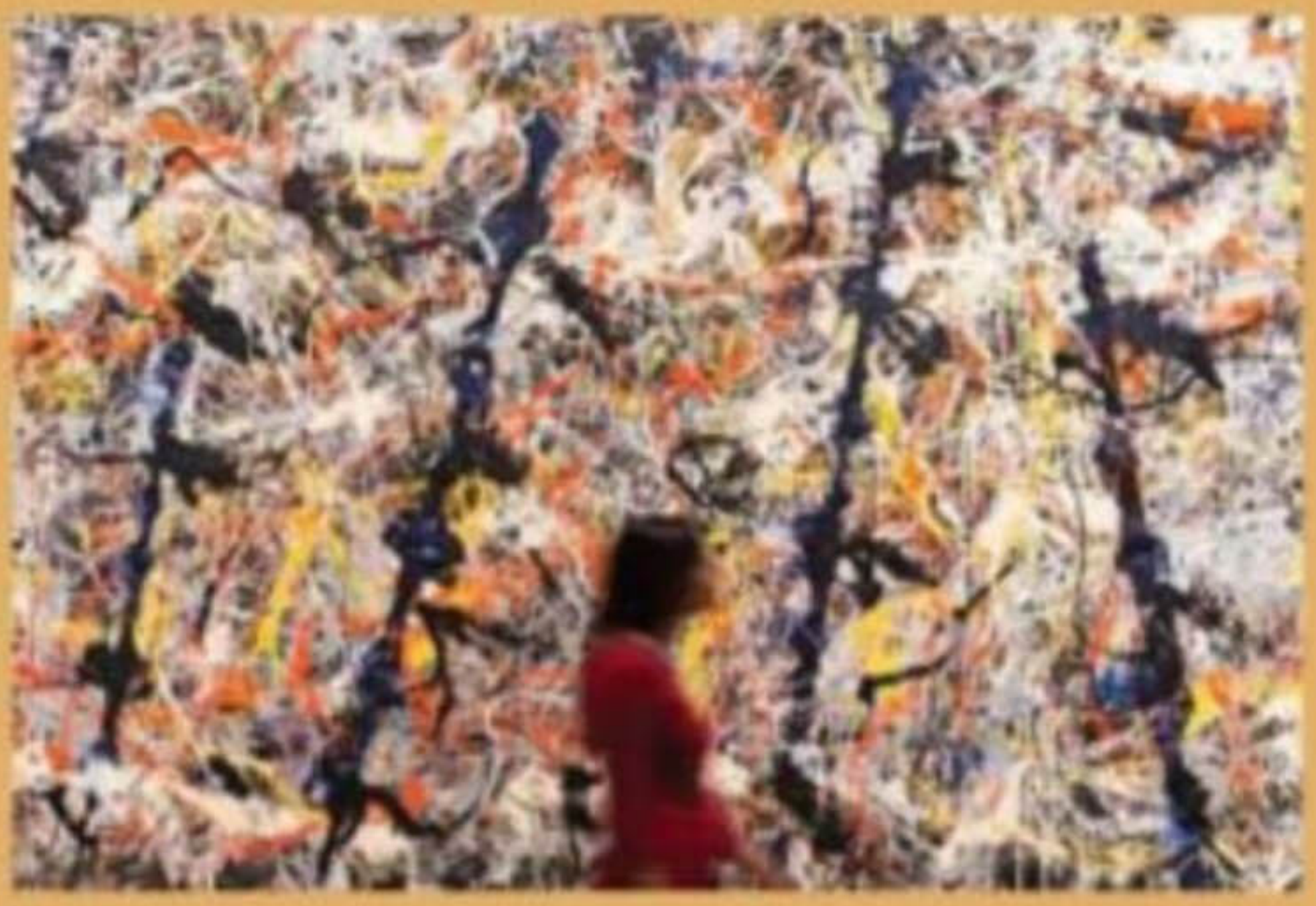
The ultimate road trip. A dramatization of the formative road trip taken by Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara in his youth. (R)

Moulin Rouge (2001)

MOULIN ROUGE
MOULIN ROUGE

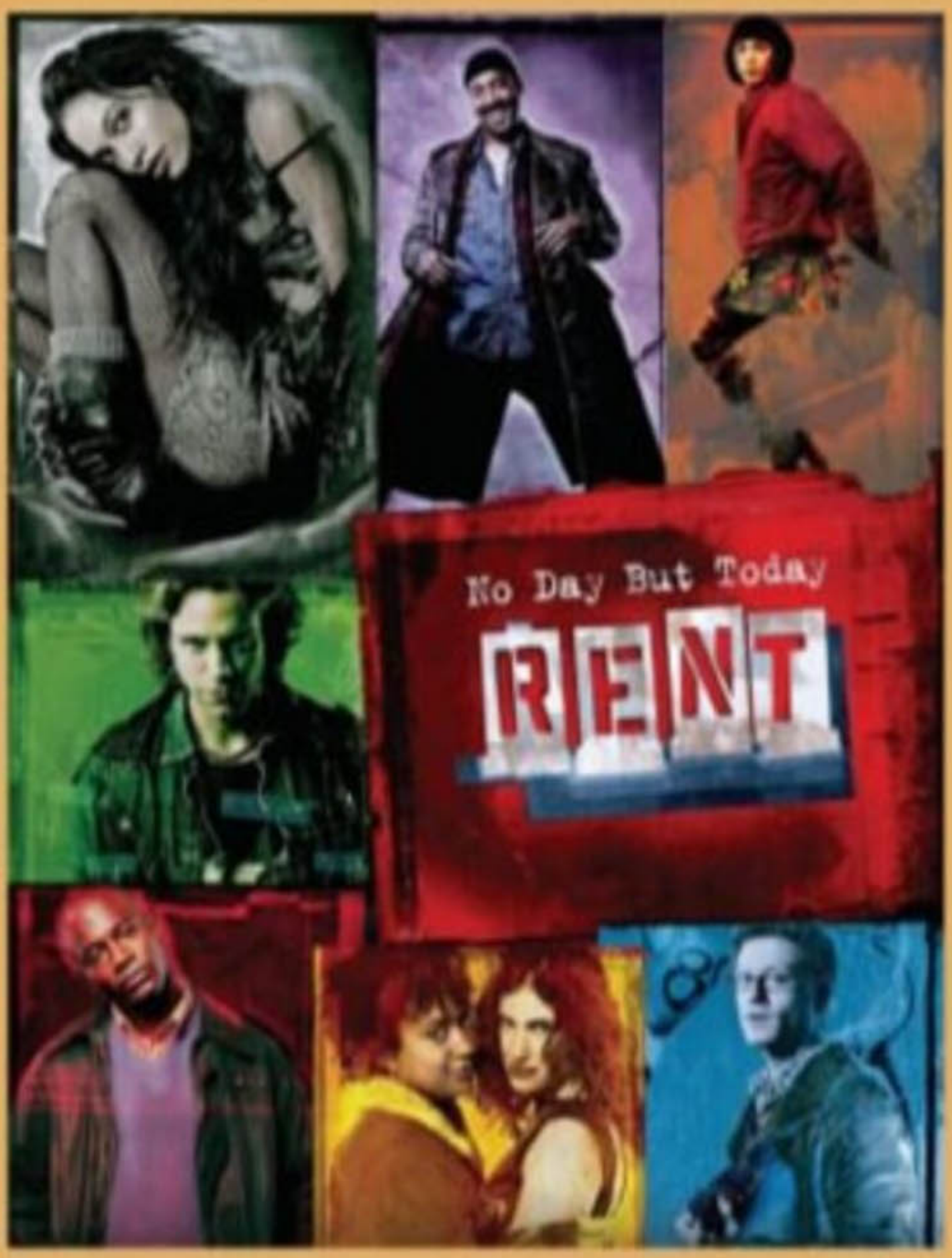
A poor, Bohemian poet in 1890s Paris falls for a beautiful courtesan and nightclub star who is coveted by a jealous duke. (PG-13)

Pollock (2000)



A film about the colorful life and career of abstract American painter Jackson Pollock. (R)

Rent (2005)



The film version of the Pulitzer- and Tony-winning musical about bohemians in the East Village of New York City struggling with life, love and AIDS. (PG-13)

Summer of Soul (2021)

A documentary about the legendary 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival which celebrated African-American music and culture and promoted black pride and unity. (PG-13)

Market Philosophy

IF YOU ARE LOOKING for another place closer to home to start exploring what boho chic is and where to find it, vintage flea markets are full of beautiful, unexpected and inspiring antiques, collectibles and cool treasures. The best market booths create vignettes so the shopper can see the design and layering technique that best shows off vintage objects and style. Once you see some examples of how to create a boho aesthetic, you can zero in on the items you want to include in your own world of design. Knowing the backstory of the vintage objects you bring home bestows patina and the romance and mystery of another time.

Don't be surprised if that unique-looking basket, pitchfork or wooden tool carrier you saw at the flea market shows up in the next catalog from your favorite home furnishing store. Designers and product developers shop vintage flea markets too—and replicate the interesting things they see for their collections—even designing them to "look old," like the original.

If you don't know where the vintage flea markets are in your area, try calling or stopping in at an antique shop or antique mall near you. The vendors at these brick-and-mortar retail locations often have fliers and information on the dates and locations of upcoming markets.

Vintage finds are all part of boho home chic. Layering your decor with items steeped in history and storytelling will ensure that your home is always a conversation starter and a place where visitors will want to spend time.

Inspired is good, but authentic is even better—and it makes the thrill of the hunt more fun.

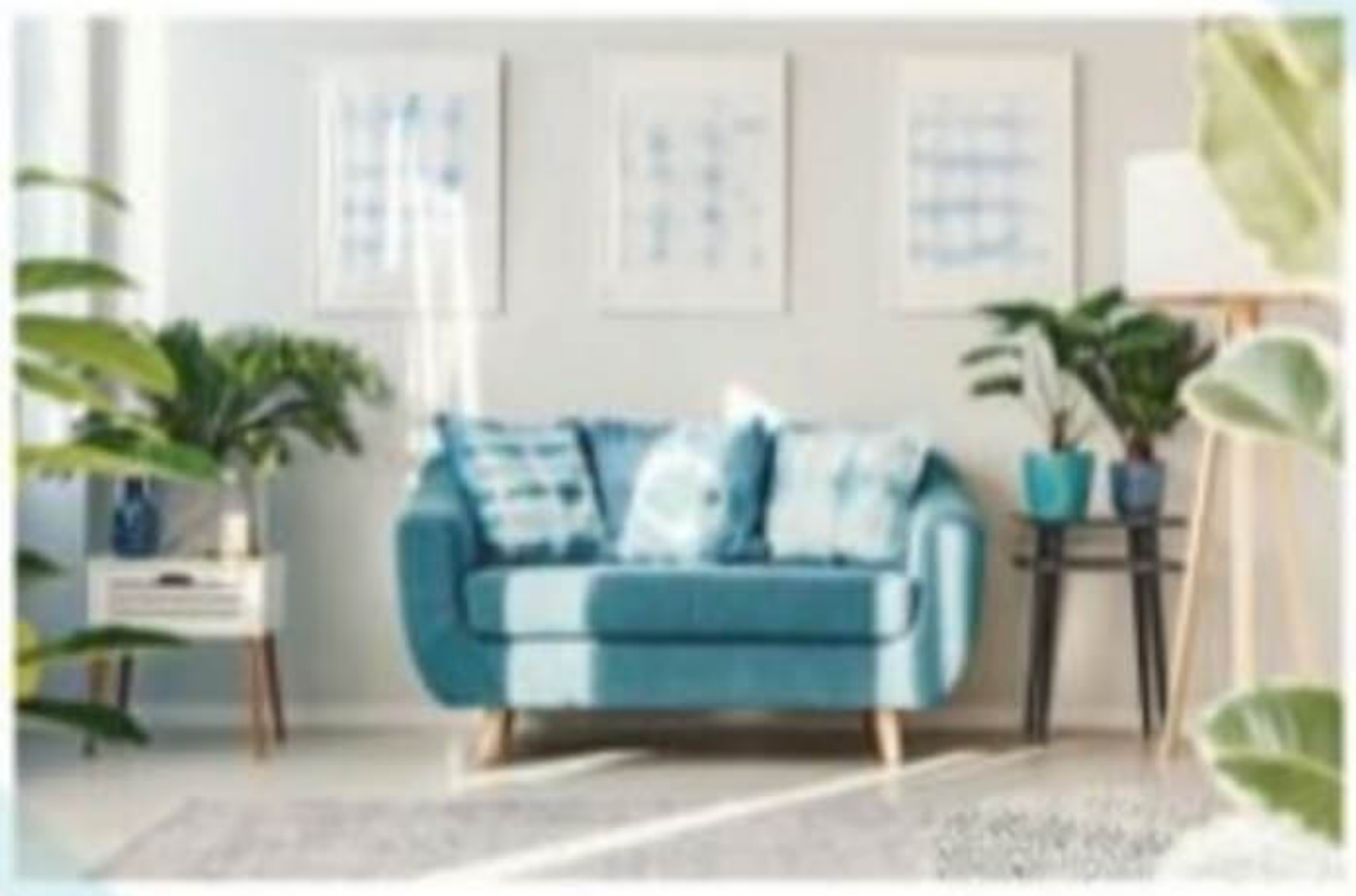
INSPIRATION BOARDS

If you have ever tried to describe the home interior or furnishing and decor of your dreams to a friend, you may have noticed how hard it is to find the right words. This is also true even when you are trying to clarify your ideas in your own head.

When it comes to design, it is always more effective to show rather than tell, so bring on the mood board (sometimes called *inspiration board* or *design board*). The idea is to gather images that represent the look, feel and mood of the space you want to create. This can be done with books, magazines, scissors and a glue stick—or digitally online with Pinterest, Canva or PicMonkey, multiuse platforms that allow users to upload content to work with online.

Set a few goals: identify an inspiration item or image, list three to five colors you would consider using in the space, make a list of things you already have for the space, make another list of things you would like to add to the space, find pictures of a room or space that looks similar to what you would like.

Try to find an item (pillow, area rug, art work, couch, duvet cover, etc.) or image (a lakeside cottage, a deep green forest, a desert sunset, a sophisticated cityscape) you want to use as inspiration for the entire space—the color direction, the style, the mood. If you can point to one thing to identify the look you want to achieve within the room, it will be easier to sort through things that support that concept or lean in a different direction.



BOHO
Home

There are so many ways
to express the Boho aesthetic.
Explore a few of them.

Get the Look

Beachy Boho

Waves, water birds, salt air and sea spray inspire the sea-loving soul of this look—which can be embraced whether you live along the shore or just dream about it·

WITH AN EMPHASIS on neutral colors, peppered with waves of blues from the palest aqua to dark indigo and navy, the aesthetic relies upon inspiration taken from driftwood and seagrass, the color of seashells and every shade of sand. When all the elements come together, the look can skew coolly modern or surf-shack chic. Intention, attitude and personality reign—and there is a lot more to it than scattering some seashells and calling it a day.

"You don't want to get caught in a coastal cliché," says interior designer Maureen Owens of Owenteriors in Weston, Connecticut; "that would be very *un*-bohemian."

Instead, the idea is to channel the feel or essence of what it is like to live by the sea—the cool breezes, the relaxed atmosphere, the natural beauty and the open, airy, free-flowing environment—without the kitschy clutter.

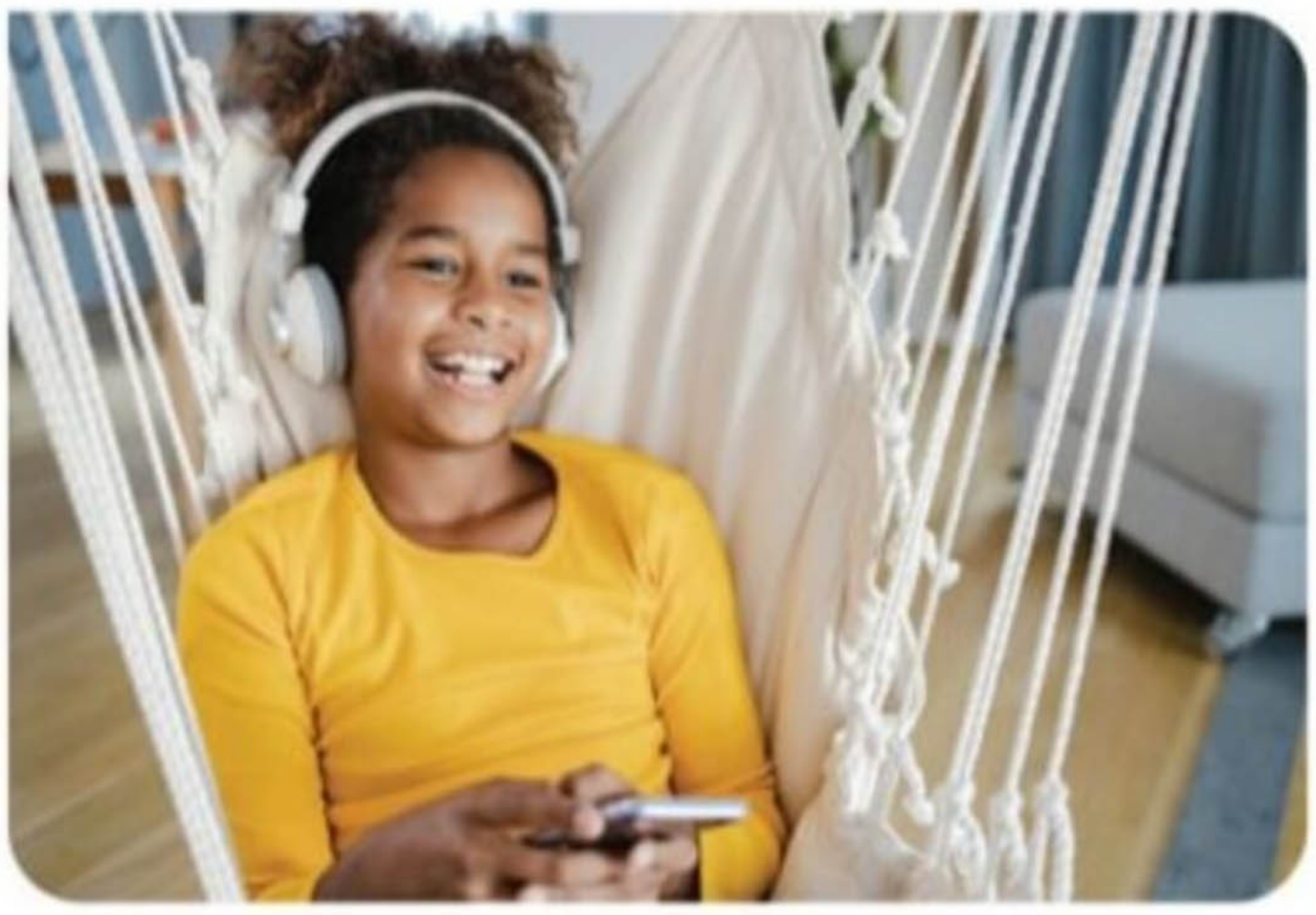
We asked Owens how to get the look.

Key Pieces

"You want a really relaxed vibe," says Owens. "I would start with the furniture." She recommends choosing low-profile, unstructured pieces with sumptuous, overstuffed pillows. Comfort is key. "The pillows are always overstuffed," Owens adds; "they do not have a [tailored] box cut."

Look for upholstery in natural fabrics (like linen, cotton, hemp) in loose, pretty patterns, with "a lot of cream and whites." She suggests keeping materials in light, nature-inspired shades—"No [dark] heavy wood colors."

Wicker, rattan, and raffia are also perfect picks for furniture with effortless coastal cool. "You could even do a swing seat, like a chair that is suspended from the ceiling, that would be beautiful."



Avoid Matchy-Matchy

You want to mix everything up, especially when you are going bohemian. Your coffee table could be rattan or glass, it could have a mosaic pattern of inlaid shell or bone." Focus on texture and pattern in complementary colors and tones. To achieve a look of serenity and calm, pick a few key colors to thread through the room and tie everything together.

Coastal Colors

When it comes to choosing a color palette, Owens sees a palette more akin to a sunset and sandy beaches than the many moods of the Pacific. “I’m thinking more sand colors, sunset colors than shades of blue—of course you’ll bring in blues but if you mix it up it becomes so much more interesting.”

Again, Owens suggests steering your ship away from the expected. “You want to add sand colors, and sand has pink in it—and driftwood colors of gray; bleached-out, sun-worn colors are absolutely beautiful.” Think sea glass. “Not just the blues,” says Owens, but also “you’ve got greens and faded white and dusty colored whites and pink.”

Bringing In the Boho

Color palettes and furnishings can set the tone, but accessories and decor make a look come alive.

“Things that look like they’re handmade, hand-woven will definitely add to that coastal bohemian look,” Owens notes. Think hand-thrown pottery; original art from a local art fair or online sites like Etsy; hand-dyed, batiked or block-printed fabrics; and handcrafted items carried home from a memorable adventure or excursion.

Vintage posters or photographs of surfers or photographs are also on point. “Even photos of old jeeps, or a vintage truck with a surfboard hanging out of it,” said Owens. Find imagery of things that give your favorite seaside spot a sense of place. “You could also take photographs of your kids on the beach and have them enlarged in black and white so they look more vintage and artsy—and that would be very bohemian and fun,” said Owens. “Frame them in very light, natural wood frames—it would be beautiful.”

Greenery is a must. “Bring in natural elements, like woven fabrics, pillows, sisal rugs, grass woven rugs, linen, jute and lots of big plants, like palms and banana tree plants, ferns and baskets—definitely lots of baskets.”

Less Is More

A big part of making a space look open and airy is not overfilling it with furniture and “stuff.” An interior is more serene when there is breathing room.

This can be easier said than done, however, especially when square footage is limited.

The trick is choosing furnishings with multipurpose appeal. Stacking floor cushions in mixed-and-matched patterns and colors can create an end table, ottoman or coffee table (that can also be taken apart and appropriated for seating); open shelving can be used to display art and decorative baskets as well as holding utilitarian items like books, bowls, trinket boxes (for storage) or the hand-painted cups you found at a craft show.

Owens says even straw sun hats hung on hooks by the door can be artful. “It’s double duty—and that’s what you want to do,” says the designer; “you want to create interest and yet have it be functional at the same time. Everything is accessible.”

Greetings from...

Create interest—
with functionality.

Going With the Flow

The design and feel of a home that has been thoughtfully created has a sense of flow from one room, or one space, to the next. Theme rooms are best left to amusement parks. Transitioning from a seaside-inspired living room to a rustic, urban farm-influenced kitchen can feel jarring.

The idea is to portray not just a look, but a lifestyle.

Moving from the living or dining space to the kitchen, the attitude of a boho beach aesthetic can once again be incorporated through the use of woven materials (maybe seagrass or wicker counter stools and upside-down basket-inspired lamp shades or pendants), a seaside palette or mother of pearl drawer pulls and knobs.

Natural elements like butcher block, stone and even concrete would be at home in a beautiful bohemian kitchen. Organic, natural (or natural-look) surfaces will shine.

“You definitely want the space to have texture,” says Owens.

BASKET WEAVING 101

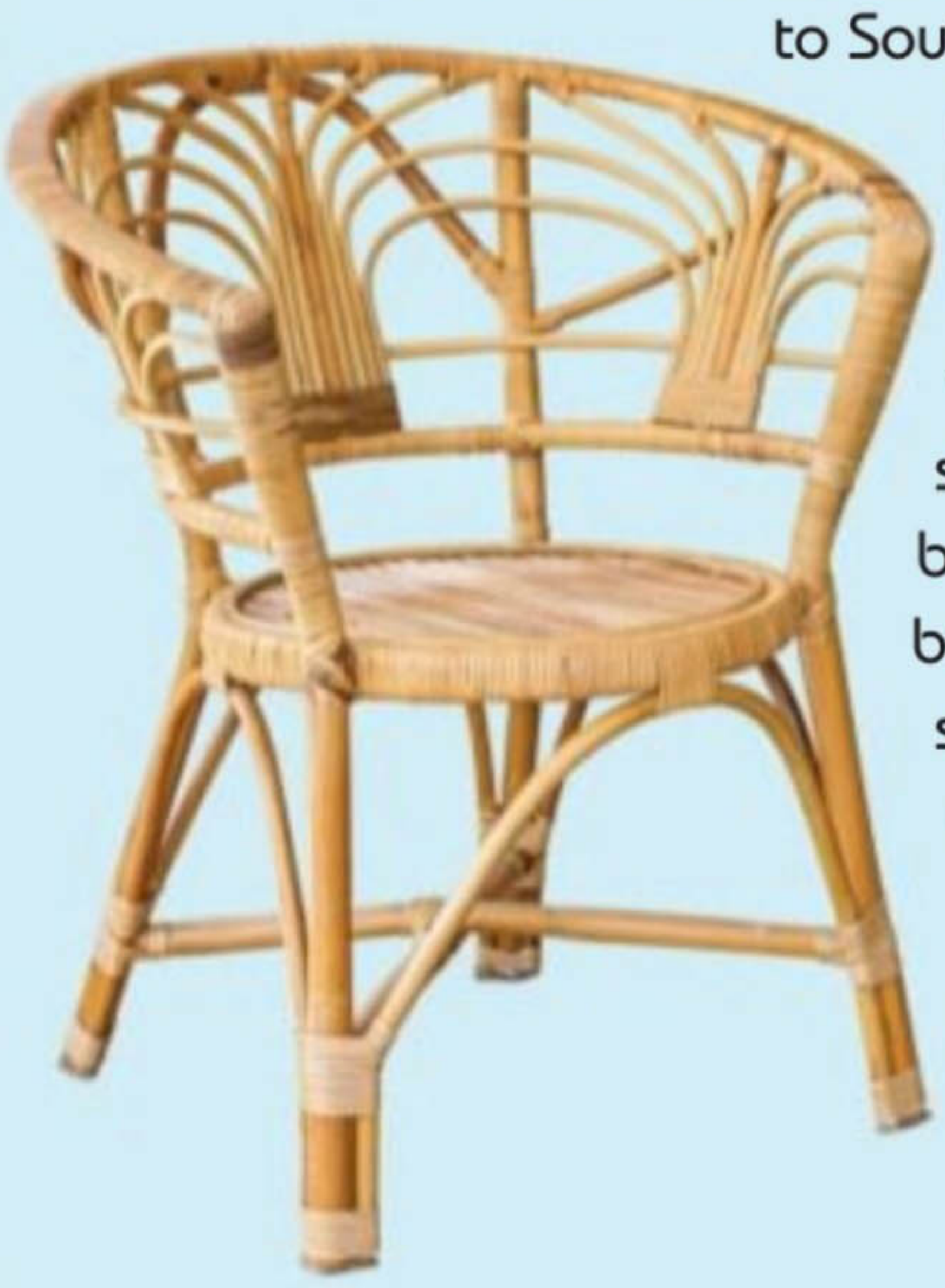
A big element of the boho home is using natural materials to create texture, dimension and a chic vibe. Here we break down what some of the terms describing woven, basket-like materials mean.

Wicker

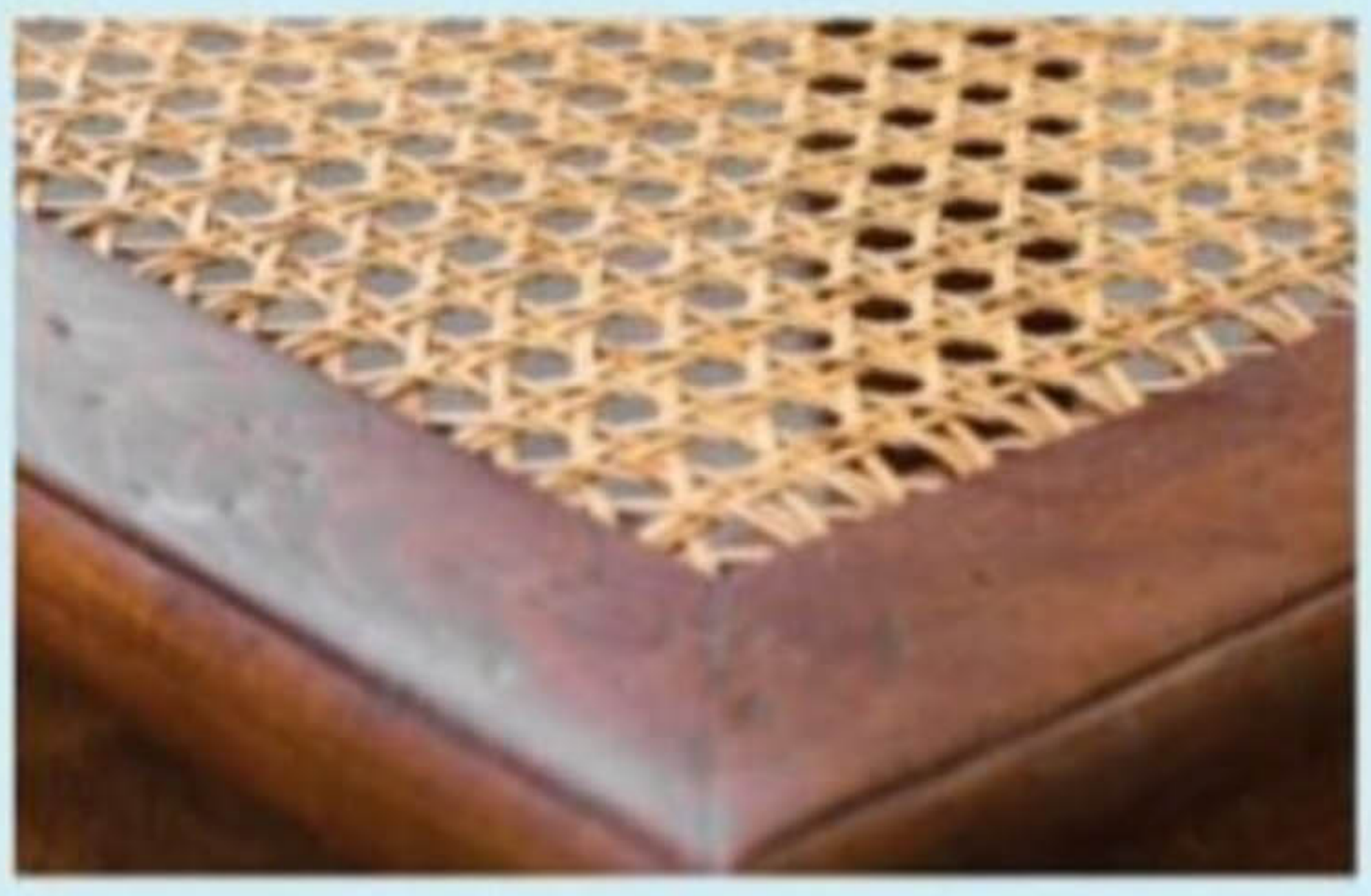
Prepare to impress and amaze your friends. Wicker is not a *material*, but instead a description of a *type of weave*—aka "wickerwork." Many things can be used to create the wicker look—a technique that can be traced all the way back to the ancient Egyptians who probably used swamp grasses and reeds. Today, however, home decor and furnishings can be made in this style using anything from synthetic resin, plastic vinyl, bamboo, willow, reed and rattan. Wicker designs made from artificial materials are a good fit for outside use, while wickerwork made from natural materials will look better and last longer when kept inside.

Rattan

Rattan is a naturally grown and harvested climbing palm plant native to Southeast Asia, Africa and Australia. The flexible vine looks similar to bamboo, but can be stained like wood to create a variety of designs. It can be woven into wicker or crafted into the framework of furniture and home decor accessories.



Cane



Cane is the outer skin of the rattan vine. It is peeled off in strips and used to make the traditional, and very popular, open-weave cane webbing. The natural cane fibers are strong, flexible and water-resistant, which makes them a natural fit for weaving the seats of chairs. The open-weave cane design is also put to work as a decorative detail on furniture, home accessories and even wallpaper. The open-weave cane look can also be achieved using synthetic materials for outside use.

Seagrass

As the name suggests, seagrass is found in the ocean and is the only plant that flowers while submerged beneath saltwater. When harvested for the purpose of making home decor (baskets, rugs, market totes and accessories), the grasses are thoroughly dried, then wound together tightly (like cotton fibers making yarn) to make coils, or ropes, of varying thickness.

Sisal

Turns out tequila isn't the only thing made from the agave cactus. Sisal, the strong, sustainable natural material used for floor coverings and furnishings, is made from the crushed leaves of the flowering agave plant. The leaves are crushed into pulp to create fibers that are then spun into cords and rope for weaving.

Jute

Jute is made from the plant of the same name and grows mostly in Bangladesh and India. The tall, golden stalks are harvested, then soaked in water to separate the fibers from the shaft. The fibers are processed into threads that are then spun into coils and ropes for weaving.

Bohemian Rhapsody

This Bohemian trend is definitely for the "more is more" personality.

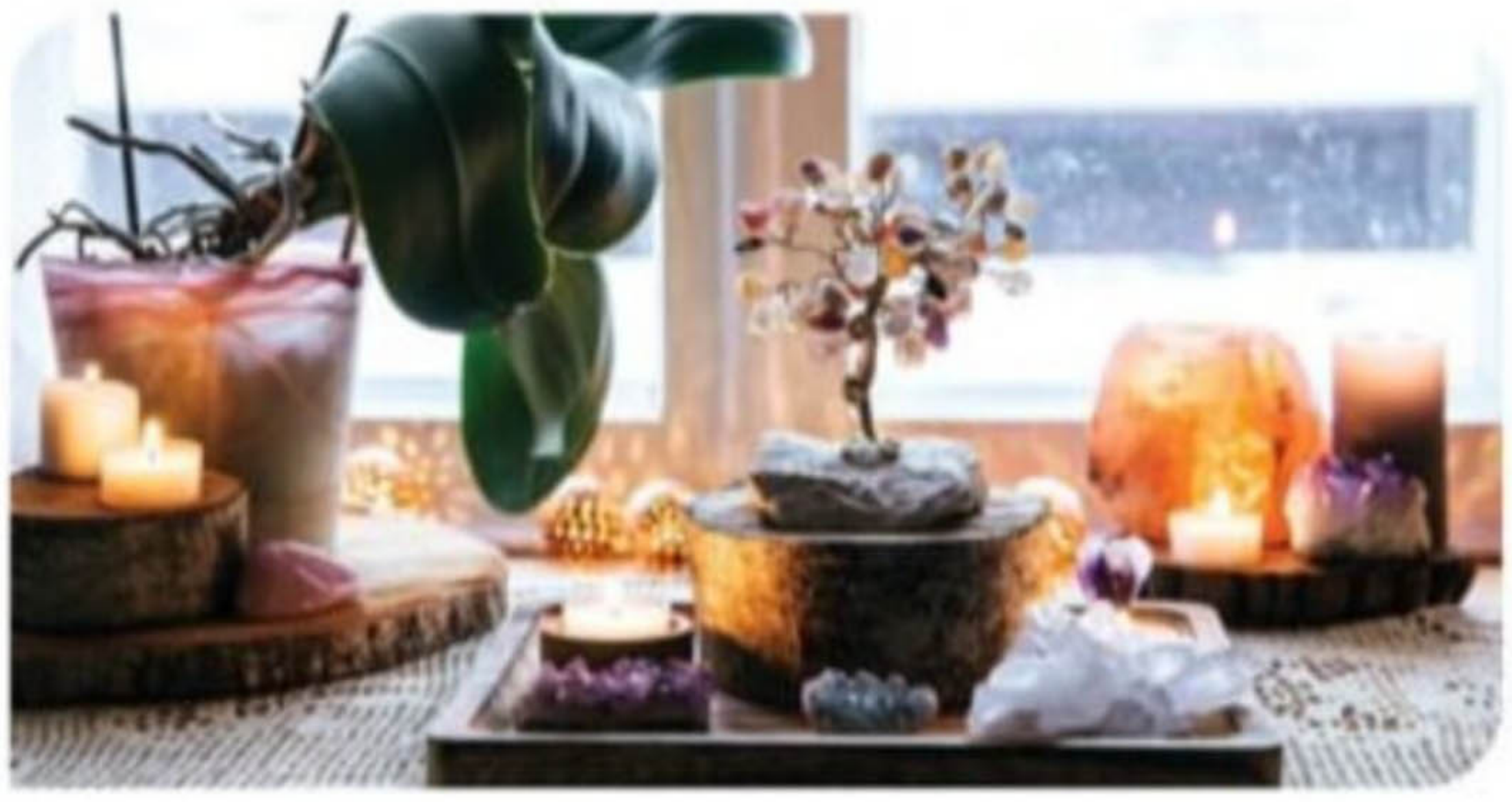
THE "MAXIMALIST" creates a chic home filled with layers of color, texture, pattern and eclectic design in a joy-filled explosion of self-expression, art and nature. This look knows no bounds and the effect is bold, vital and vibrant. It's *all* good.

Identified by a love for color, jewel tones as well as muted, bright and nature-inspired, the maximalist also loves bold patterns that take inspiration from Morocco, Mexico, Turkey, India, Indonesia and Japan—just to name a few! Vintage prints, tassels, beads, and trims add to the fun. Ethnic prints, tie-dye, batik and Shibori-dyed materials are treasure for the vintage market hunter. Highlighted by poufs, hammocks, nubby knits, tufted rugs, wall hangings, travel souvenirs, photographs and pottery, this design theme is obvious and joyful. Maximalism incorporates all the bohemian elements, so mix and match to your heart's content.

Boho Romance

Romantics have a folk-artsy style with nomadic influences of wanderlust, mysticism and adventure.

HAND-PAINTED SURFACES abound, along with lots of vintage and a love of history and lore behind every item. Flowers, plants and sensuousness reign.



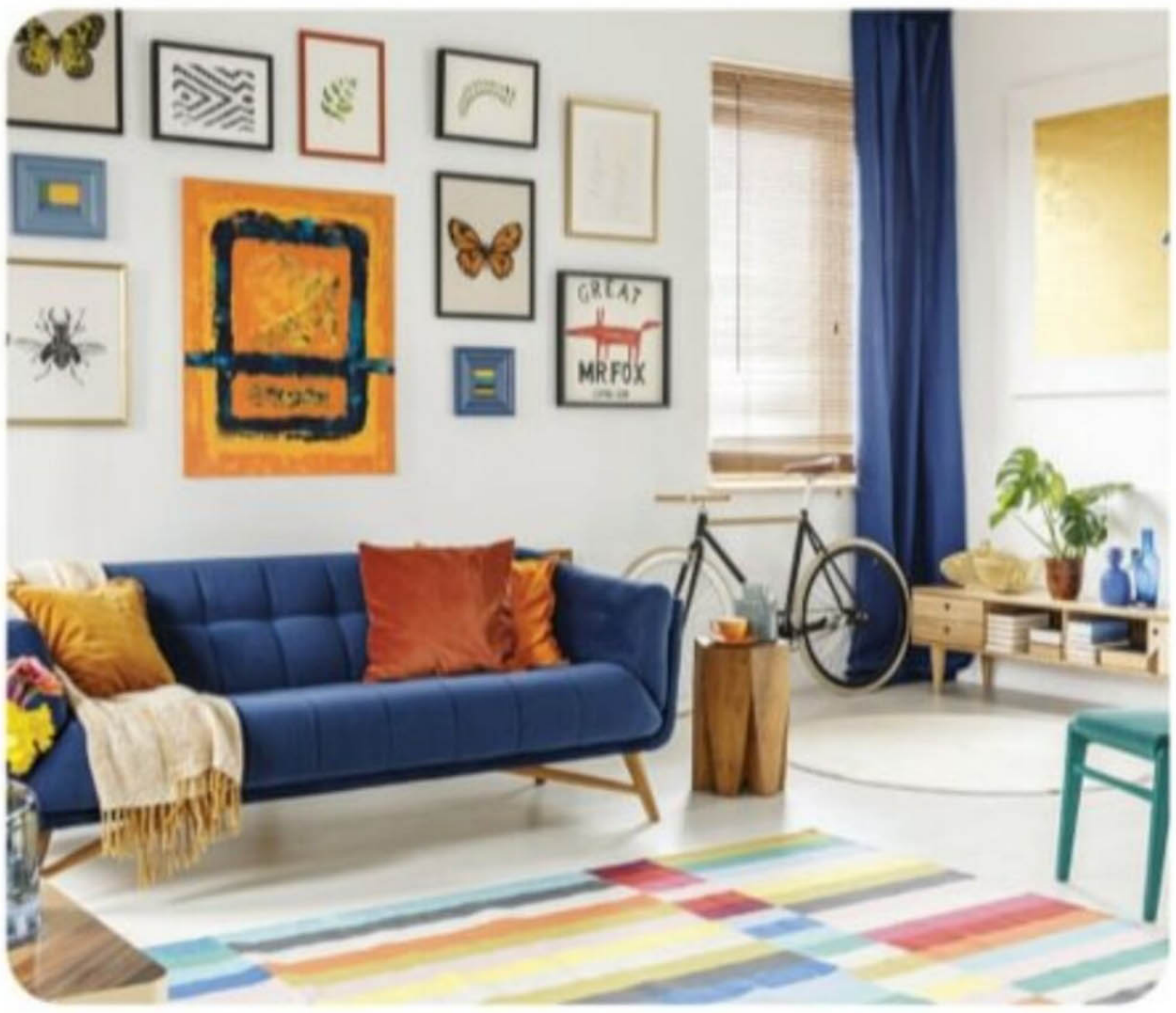
Designing a romantic bohemian interior will feature vintage finds with a feel for nostalgia, plants, hand-painted folk art and furniture, artisanal pottery (new or vintage), pretty florals and botanical prints. Color, wallpaper and lots of candles and fairy lights set the tone. Get comfortable with floor cushions, poufs, throw pillows, feathers and fringe. Paper lanterns and curlicued wicker designs, rocking chairs, stained glass and wind chimes provide the backdrop and soundtrack to this whimsical and cozy boho theme.

Flowers, plants and sensuousness reign.

MODERN BOHO

It might seem a contradiction in terms, but there is a sophisticated meet-up of Scandinavian chic and contemporary bohemian.

THE LOOK FEATURES the pared-back, uncluttered, curated aesthetic of an airy loft, with furnishings and decor inspired by the art, soul and design of a bohemian aesthetic. Found objects, vintage pieces, lots of plants, organic materials, open space and natural light define this design personality. Call it "inspired minimalism."

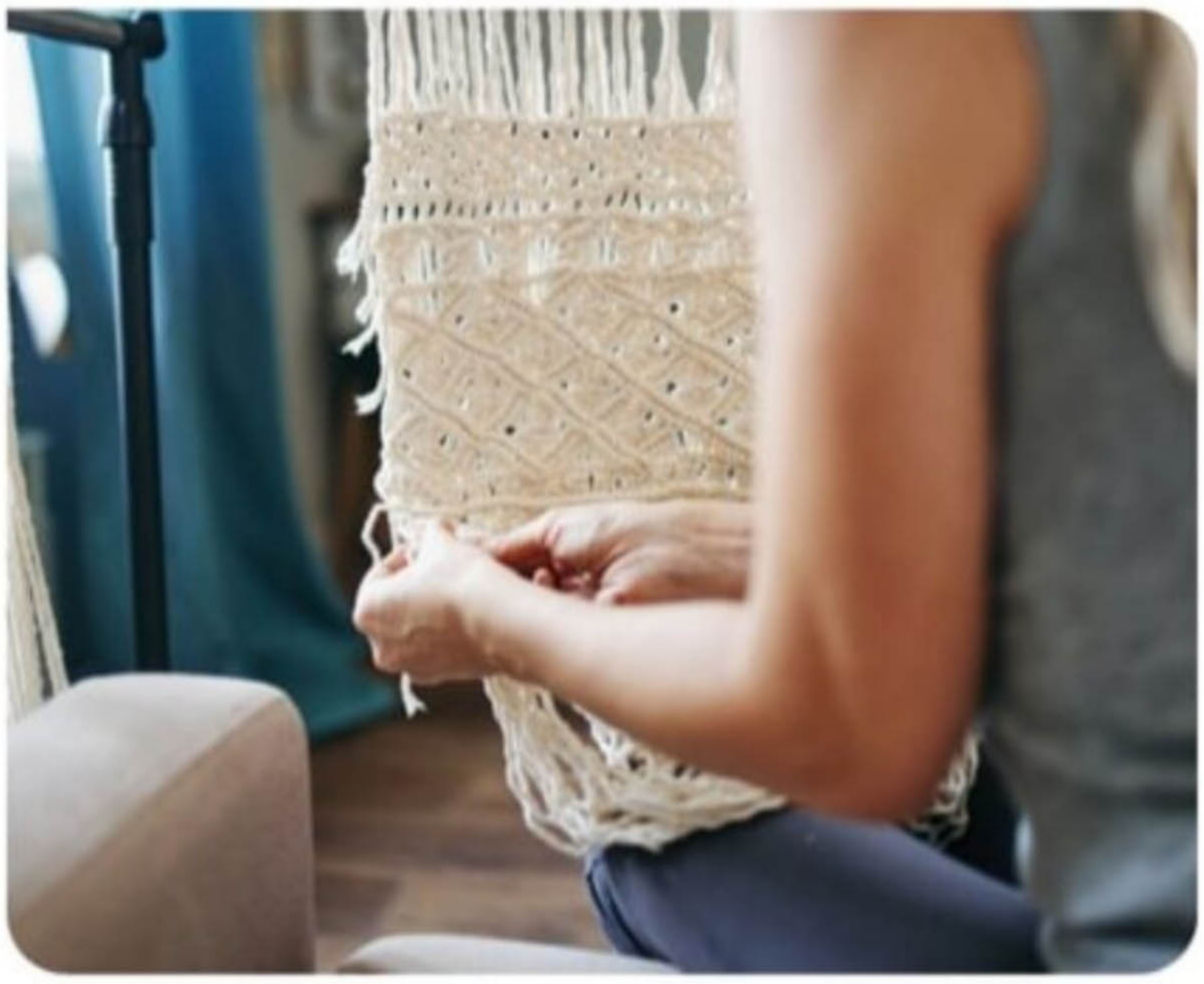


Modern boho chic can be found in rich, sophisticated, dark color; contrasting colorways; brass fixtures; and live-edge wood tables. Original art and sculpture, with accents in natural materials like leather, wood, metal and glass, complement both ends of the modern boho spectrum. Scandi-style furniture; 1960s, '70s and '80s vintage furniture; wall hangings; plant stands; and plant hangers should all be grounded by area rugs in exotic Moroccan patterns, oversized tassels on blankets, and lots of throw pillows and poufs. Modern boho design means eclectic decor, ethnic prints, Sherpa throws (a synthetic fabric resembling sheepskin), wallpaper in simple graphic patterns, souvenirs from exotic travel, candles, clean fragrances and an ever-changing soundtrack.

Organic Bohemian

Going organic in design is all about embracing what is natural, nontoxic (e.g., low-VOC paints) and seductively neutral.

This aesthetic is all about a creamy neutral color scheme (white/ivory/sand/wheat/honey) or the muted, sunbaked tones of a desert palette. Prints are subtle and naive. Furnishings may include low-profile furniture, a hanging chair, a hammock with crocheted fringe, and vintage furniture (recycle, repurpose!). The overall look features natural, light-to-medium toned woods and organic materials such as pampas grass, tall branches in a vase or container, or fresh flowers. Color and drama are achieved with lots of greenery, tone-on-tone textured fabrics and wallpaper, plush area rugs, macramé, and an open-weave basket to put your shoes in at the front door. Add candles, a leather pouf or pillow, a woven tray, and original art or sculpture.



MORE VOLUPTUOUS than Scandi style, this look isn't minimal but it is bare, fresh and sleek. Color palettes are unfinished, neutral and raw. Natural elements like wood, leather, iron and glass are paired with unbleached fabrics, woven textiles, area rugs and baskets. Plants are a given.

Unity in Design Diversity

What unifies boho's variations on a theme is a passion for individuality, personal choice and self-expression. If it feels good, decorate with it.

THE BOHEMIAN PENCHANT for art, all things handcrafted and handmade, natural and organic materials, lots of color and an endless quest for inspiration are the tools you bring to the blank canvases of your space—your works in progress.

"I think the number one tip to consider for someone looking to dip their toe into the bohemian aesthetic is to actually—just let it all go," says Dayna Isom Johnson, a Los Angeles-based trend expert for Etsy and judge for the NBC primetime series *Making It*. "I don't think there is a right or wrong answer."

"Let go of your structured opinions of what you think will work," says Isom Johnson, "because bohemian style is about being carefree. It's about being eclectic and not being afraid to mix and match patterns and textures. To me, when I imagine creating that look, it's about creating a space that looks comfortable and well lived in—it's about embracing that carefree attitude, embracing color and inviting nature into your home."

Since supporting local artists and appreciating the custom, one-of-a-kind quality of handmade furnishing and decor are integral parts of the boho philosophy, shopping at Etsy, an online artisanal resource, is a natural fit. Isom Johnson notes there are literally millions of searches carried out on the site that include the word *bohemian*. "I think that can really be attributed to customers who want to feel closer to nature and be more conscious about the items they are purchasing," says the trend expert.

The site also sells vintage, which also attracts the boho buyer. "A lot of people don't even consider that when they are purchasing something vintage, they are actually making a very conscious choice," says Isom Johnson, "because they are not purchasing new items that add to the bulk of new things on the planet; rather they are reinvigorating things and adding their own personal style to it."

Isom Johnson adds, "What makes this trend so aligned with Etsy is that the bohemian style celebrates creativity and artistry—so it's no surprise there are so many sellers that embrace some form of the bohemian style."

In 2021, Candice Luter was the winner of the annual Etsy Design Award for her tactile and geometric textile wall art consisting of natural macramé, rope, knots, wood and fringe hand-sculpted into organic shapes and custom designs. Her *wabi-sabi* look mirrors, curvaceous mirrors splashed with rivers and streams of gold, are also on trend and also speak to the beauty of nature—organic with a hint of Art Deco. "Her art is a wonderful representation of boho glam," says Isom Johnson; "she does a great job of marrying those two things."

Another Etsy artist, Kerry Stokes of Calhoun & Co. was also noted as an example by Isom Johnson for her knit throws and blankets featuring leafy botanical prints, insects, rainbows, florals, snakes, seashells, flower power daisies, and leopards. "Her designs are inspired by nature, or embody the rich, earth-toned colorways that pair back to the bohemian aesthetic."

BOHO in Focus

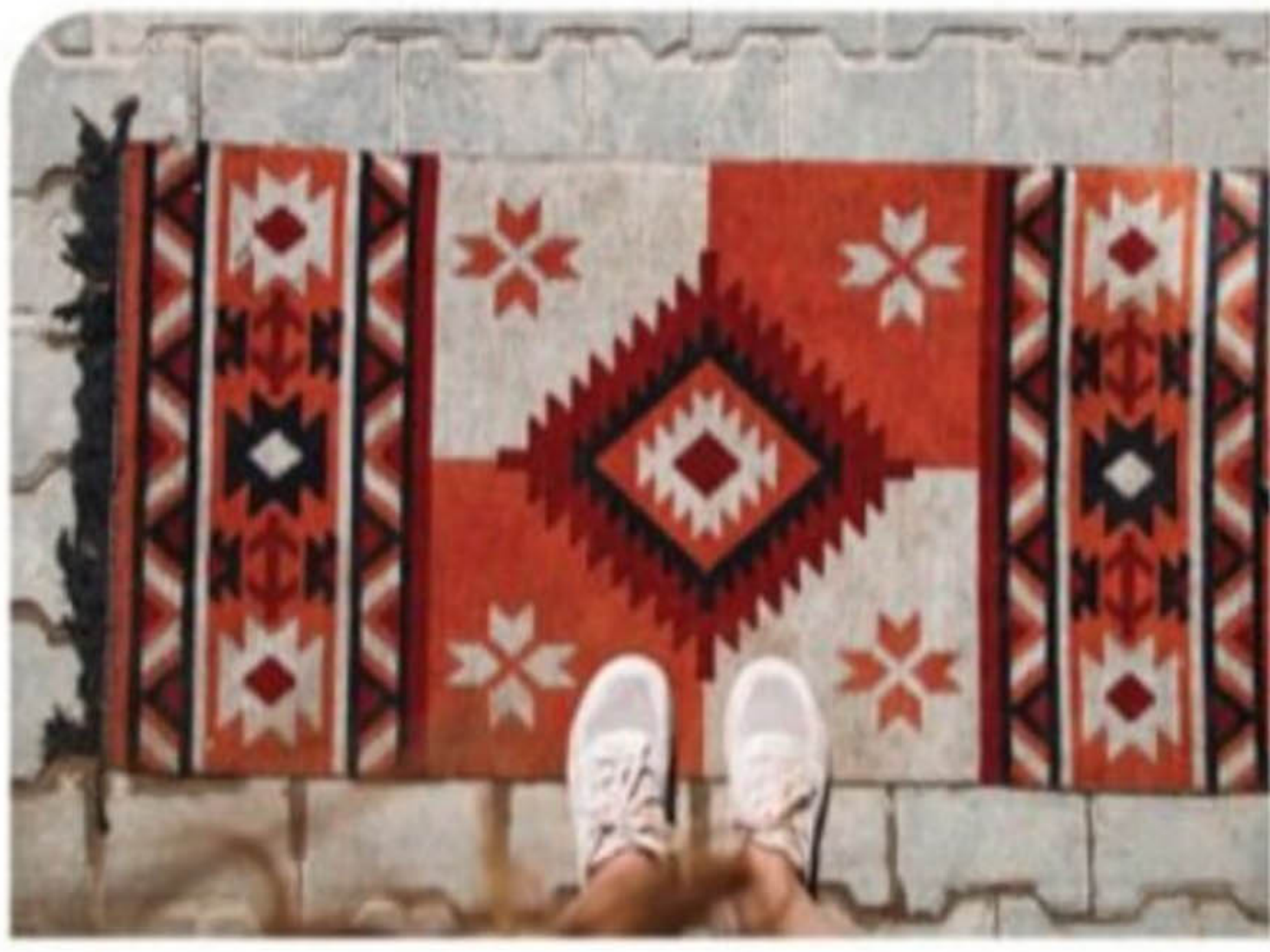
The beauty of boho is the way an eclectic collection of treasures and style comes together to create a magical, meaningful interior.

TO BRING A STRONG STATEMENT of style into focus, however, a space requires a focal point. Some rooms have a natural focal point—a wall of windows overlooking a garden, a well-crafted fireplace, a major piece of furniture or a much-loved work of art. But some don't. To center your space, consider adding an area rug to ground the room with color, pattern or design, or installing a three-dimensional gallery wall. The first step is to assess the existing interior with fresh eyes so you can create a cohesive plan. We've rounded up a few ideas for getting started.

Texture is also important—especially in a monochromatic room with minimal color. Instead of multiple color choices, texture can provide the interest and dimension needed to make the room come alive.

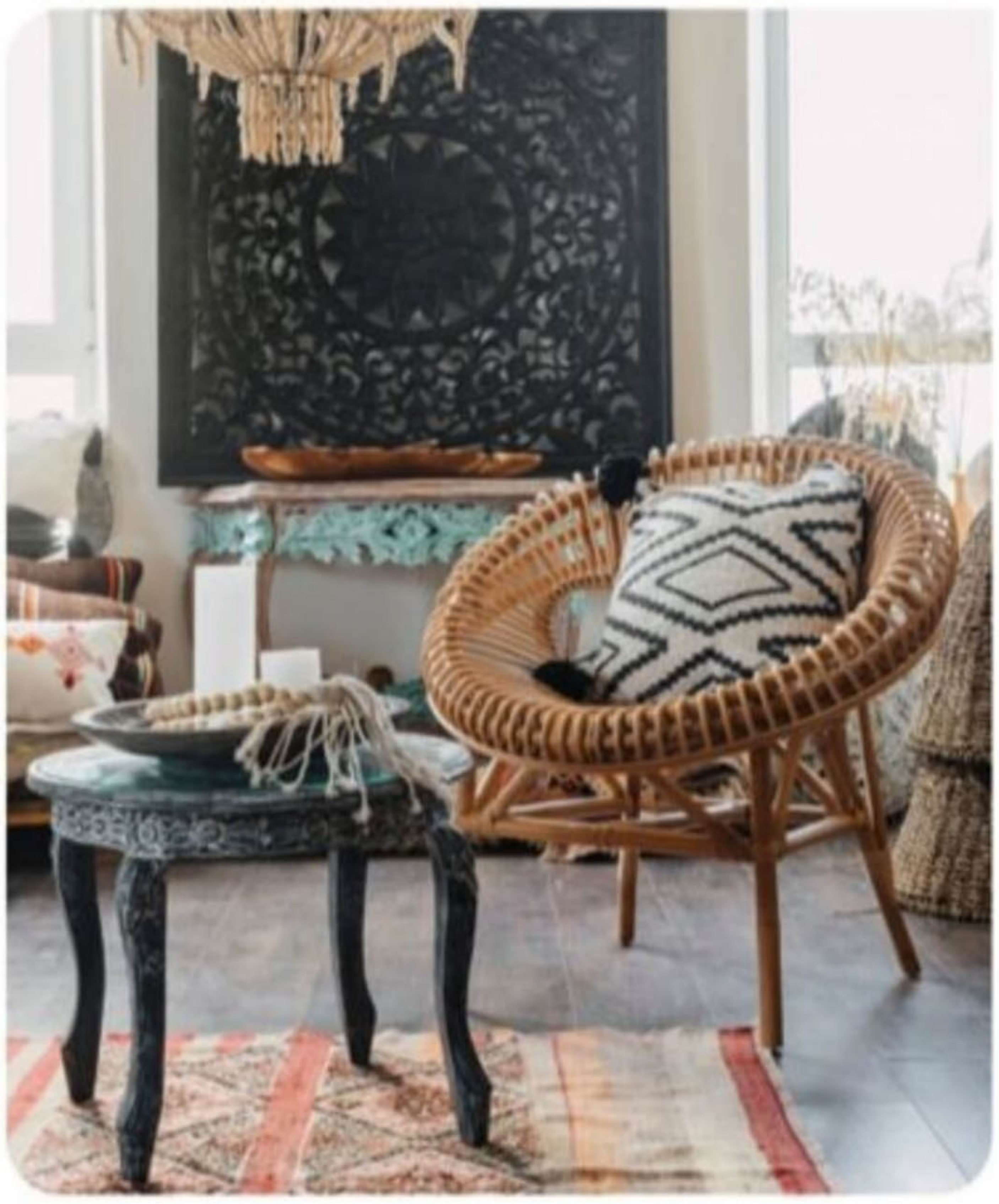
Examples of textured area rugs and floor coverings include sisal and woven seagrass rugs, high-pile rugs in textural designs, braided wool or jute rugs, faux animal skins, shag carpets, Sherpa rugs, tasseled and fringed rugs, and tufted rugs.

Patterned rugs that play well within a bohemian interior include antique vintage styles with a hand-knotted look, graphic geometric patterns, tone-on-tone patterns, Middle Eastern–inspired designs, printed jute rugs, Native American motifs and naive patterns, Moroccan styles, and abstract geometric prints.



Magic Carpets

The best home decor elements are those that provide style as well as substance. More than just a pretty piece or afterthought, area rugs contribute substantially to the overall effect and comfort of a room.



Rugs inform a space with their color, texture (how they feel), pattern and size. Dark colors can ground a room with gravitas, while lighter colors instill a sense of airiness and lightness. The color and pattern of the rug should reflect the palette that has been chosen for the room. In a room with solid-colored furnishings and walls, a patterned area rug can roll out the drama and contribute a sense of energy to the space.

Color Theory

Q&A with certified color consultant Debra Spindler Pinals

Certified color consultant and interior stylist Debra Spindler Pinals of Weston, Connecticut-based Spinpin Creative says the biggest mistake she sees people making with color is not using any at all. We got her advice on how to avoid the bland and boring trap by creating instead a cool, cohesive and color-saturated space.

Where do we start?

First, take a look at your "fixed elements," the hard finishes and things in the space that won't be changing—the countertops, natural light, ceiling height, tile or flooring. These will guide you in choosing the best colors; a space that looks well designed and cohesive considers all these elements together.

What is the "inspiration pillow"?

When I'm designing, my starting point for color would be a pillow with, for instance, three colors—and that's the palette for the space.

If you can find an inspirational pillow—or painting, area rug, or artwork—you can use that as a model for the room.

Start by mixing in color sparingly—adding some flowers or towels in that shade, and then if you start to feel comfortable, maybe you'll buy some pillows, and then at some point you're buying a sofa in your favorite color.

Start with something small.

What's one of your favorite color tips?

I personally love yellow on a front door—school bus yellow, straw yellow, yellow green are all beautiful colors on a front door.

Yellows are a sunny color that will brighten your mood and raise your energy. It's just happiness.

If you want to use it on your interior, it's better to use a light honey color, a more subtle shade. It would look beautiful with blue-grays, green-grays and true white—you could even add a little bit of midnight blue.

How do you turn a beige, blah room into boho chic?

Add texture. Plush throw rugs, nubby textures, woven baskets, wall hangings, woven pendants—all work great. Texture is an amazing way to make a neutral room come to life.

Another way is to add warm woods into a neutral room. The wood provides lots of organic warmth and dimension. Something like a live-edge table would be beautiful, and it also adds shape.

Metallics are also a great way to add interest to a room. I would stick to choosing two different metals. The way the light catches the metallics gives them dimension—which is what a neutral room needs. In fact, a lot of times, that is what the neutral space is missing.

Patterns, fabrics and wallpapers with prints in varying sizes and patterns are also really important.

Roll With It

We are living in an age of a wallpaper renaissance. The rise of this high-impact trend over the last decade may be due in some part to the advent of temporary wallpaper, the peel-and-stick product that affixes to walls and other surfaces like a giant Post-it, but it can also be attributed to the windfall of artistry and creativity that is propelling modern prints and patterns to new heights.

THIS IS NOT your grandma's wallpaper—although some of the classic retro designs also look freshly en vogue.

According to Aimee Lagos and Christiana Coop, the co-founders and masterminds behind Hygge & West, a Minneapolis-based wallpaper company, there are myriad ways to include wallpaper, murals and borders in a bohemian space.

"When I think of bohemian, I think of a fairly colorful interior," says Coop. "I think you could do something textural as well. I think of bohemian as being made up of lots of plants and texture and color—but there is a wide range of wallpaper to go along with that theme."

Plumes
Quill
Evil Eye

IN THE HYGGE & WEST collections, Coop and Lagos point to examples inspired by ethnic patterns, feather designs, block prints, 1970s-inspired geometric patterns, a mystical-looking eye print, a stripe entitled *Quill* from Coral and Tusk, a home goods company, that features an embroidered look. “It brings the feel of a textile to the wallpaper,” says Lagos, “which is very bohemian.”

Coop notes that hot and spicy colorways, like reddish cayenne, can also be a good choice for rooms that will be layered with lots of lush plants and greenery.

Although wallpaper prints and patterns may complement a trend, Lagos says that trendiness isn’t the inspiration behind their collections and probably isn’t the best way for consumers to make their own selections. “We don’t really go in for trends of the moment, because when people choose wallpaper, they plan to keep it up for years—so we avoid trendiness.” Lagos adds, however, that the boho look “isn’t necessarily a trend. It’s been coming and going for a long time and it’s been around for a while. It’s got a lot of staying power.”

Coop’s advice for choosing prints: “Make it work for your personality. You can add bohemian elements and mix those things in to the decor, but I don’t think you need to feel confined to ‘*Oh, I’m doing bohemian so I have to do it this way.’*. . . I think you can take inspiration from that idea and mix it with other trends.”

Lagos adds, “It really depends on what you are trying to achieve by adding pattern. You want to be mindful of what else is going on in the space and how the wallpaper is going to accentuate that or draw your eye away. [Choosing wallpaper] is not a decision that is made in a design vacuum. It's about how you plan to bring the whole space together."

"If you're going for a large-scale print, that is going to be the main focus of the room," says Coop, "so if you add pattern with other accessories, you would probably want to keep them [on the small side], and vice versa."

When it comes to getting started, the pros said their biggest tip for beginners is definitely to "read *all* of the instructions and follow them."

"It's important to take it step by step," said Lagos, "and also maybe start off with a fairly plain wall (without a lot of molding, fixtures and built-ins that need to be accommodated) so you don't have to do a lot of trimming." The trick is "just patience and following instructions carefully."

One piece of advice for newbies: light-colored papers don't show the seams as much as the darker designs. Seams might appear more visible on darker papers if the edges overlap when installed on the wall and are not carefully abutted edge to edge.

Another idea is to start small. Consider experimenting with installing wallpaper on the back of a bookshelf or the inside of a door or closet, jazzing up a room divider or serving tray, decoupaging a chest, table or vase. Any flat surface is fair game.

"We've done everything," says Lagos. "I've even wallpapered a chicken coop."

Make Scents of Your Style

Creating a visually vibrant interior is one element of bohemian decor, but taste, touch, sound and even scent all play a part in the holistic design.

RESEARCH HAS DEMONSTRATED that our sense of smell is linked to areas in the brain that control emotion and memory. Scents that trigger feelings of serenity and sanctuary can be mood-altering and powerful. In fact, adding a signature scent may be the quickest and easiest way to change the atmosphere and attitude in a room. Notes of sea breeze, lavender, ylang-ylang, fresh-cut grass, rosemary and lemon fragrances are among the most relaxing choices.

Scented candles make great gifts and are a boho fave due to the unending variety of fragrances, shapes, styles, colors and price points available. We recommend candles made with soy-based wax because the material is nontoxic, does not release benzene gas (a carcinogenic) like some paraffin wax candles, and is derived from a renewable resource (soy beans versus paraffin made with petroleum oil). Soy candles also burn more slowly than paraffin and produce less soot.

Essential Oils De-mist-ified

Essential oils are the basis of aromatherapy, the idea of using the distilled essence of flowers and herbs to create fragrances that are touted to enhance, calm, or boost our moods. A diffuser, an electronic device that works with a tank of water, a heat source or a fan, distills essential oils into airborne particles that are then dispersed as an ultrafine mist. This is an easy way to elevate a room with essential oils.

There are more than 90 kinds of essential oils, some of the most popular being lavender, bergamot, lemon, sandalwood, peppermint, rose, jasmine, eucalyptus and tea tree—and they are put to use in a variety of aromatherapy techniques.

Each one is considered by aromatherapy practitioners to have its own unique “superpower” or healing property. Many have also been touted to sooth bug bites (lavender, chamomile, tea tree), alleviate headaches (peppermint), relieve symptoms of morning sickness (peppermint), treat fungal infection (tea tree oil), repel insects (lavender, rosemary, lemongrass, geranium), promote hair growth (rosemary), and fight dandruff (tea tree), to name a few.

We like the way a spritz of essential oil sprayed onto pillows or sheets before bedtime can feel luxurious or, at your desk during a mid-afternoon slump, can brighten your mood, refresh your skin and elevate the cubicle or home office space. A small spray bottle of essential oil stowed in a purse, backpack, car or minivan can also provide a boost for a busy day on the move.

Awesome Essential Oils

Bergamot
refreshing, uplifting, mood-boosting

Eucalyptus
soothing, calming, invigorating

Jasmine
uplifting, brightening, mood-enhancing

Lavender
soothing, calming, relaxing, sleep aid

Lemon
refreshing, uplifting, aids in focus

Peppermint
relaxing, cooling, reduces stress

Rose
uplifting, comforting, aphrodisiac

Sandalwood
soothing, calming, cooling

Sweet orange
balancing, energizing, happy

Tea tree
purifying (antibacterial), renewing,
promotes well-being

Mindful Living

Creating a boho home is more than surface dressing. You want to take care of that home. And what better way to express the bohemian ethic than by using clean and green products in your most personal space.

Ditch the high prices and single-use plastic bottles inherent in mass-produced, heavily advertised commercial brands and mix up your own effective, eco-savvy alternatives instead.

White Vinegar

Humble white vinegar is the unsung hero of household cleaning. White vinegar has properties that make it adept at cutting through grime, killing some types of household bacteria (E. coli) and dissolving hard-water deposits. It's also nontoxic and inexpensive.

Refresh a Drain: Pour baking soda into a sink drain, and follow with white vinegar. The mixture will bubble and react. Let sit for five minutes or so, then rinse with warm water.

Clean Hard Water Stains around Faucets: Wrap paper towels around the bases of sink fixtures, then soak the paper with vinegar (just pour it over the top) until completely wet. Allow the vinegar-soaked paper to sit on the stains for several hours or even overnight. In the morning, remove the paper and use a sponge to wipe the area clean.

Make DIY Cleaning Spray: Mix three parts water and one part white vinegar in a spray bottle. Use to wipe down countertops, sinks, mirrors, porcelain surfaces, tile, backsplash, stovetop and more. For super-grimy situations, spray on undiluted white vinegar to cut through the grease.

Clean Pots and Pans (stainless steel, enamel): Pour water and vinegar into the dirty pot and bring to a boil. The more vinegar you use, the quicker the process will be. After boiling, dispose of the liquid and clean the pot with dish soap and water.

Clear Up Cloudy Drinking Glasses: Hard water can cause glassware to become cloudy. Soak affected glasses in undiluted vinegar for 15 minutes, then wash with soap and water.

De-Scale a Metal or Pyrex Kettle: Boil equal parts water and white vinegar inside a teakettle. Pour out the mixture and wash with soap and water.

Make Sheet Pans Sparkle: Plug the kitchen sink drain and place a stained sheet pan in the sink. Pour in equal parts white vinegar and hot water to completely cover the pan. Let sit for 30 minutes. Finish by scrubbing the pan with a balled-up piece of aluminum foil, steel wool or the rough side of a sponge.

Clean Windows: Mix equal parts water and white vinegar in a spray bottle. Spray onto dirty windows and wipe clean with sheets of newspaper.

Lemons

Pucker up! Lemons have a fresh scent, natural acidity and an excellent work ethic!

Deodorize the Microwave: Put sliced lemons in a bowl of water inside the microwave and cook on high for one minute. Do not open the door when done. Instead, allow the lemon water to steam the inside of the oven. Finally, remove the bowl and wipe down the inside of the microwave with a damp sponge.

Shine Your Pots: Sprinkle coarse salt on the cut side of a lemon and use it to scrub copper and aluminum pots and pans.

Remove Stains: Spray stained plastic food storage containers with lemon juice, or rub the stained area with a cut lemon—even one that has been squeezed for other purposes! Let the container sit for 10 to 15 minutes before washing with soap and water.

Make the Most of Your Cooking Lemons: Before discarding used lemons, use the pieces to wipe down kitchen faucets, fixtures and drains—let the lemon juice sit on the metal for a few minutes before wiping clean.

Kill Weeds: Spray lemon juice to rid the garden of unwanted weeds—just make sure you don't hit any of the plants you mean to keep!

Baking Soda

Make no mistake—baking soda causes chemical reactions. The difference between baking soda and the chemicals in commercial brands, however, is that you could accidentally ingest or inhale the baking soda (not recommended!) and not require a trip to the emergency room. It's inexpensive, nontoxic and free of single-use plastics. Give it a try.

Clean Painted Surfaces: Baking soda can be used as a gentle abrasive by sprinkling it on a damp sponge and scrubbing lightly.

Clean Porcelain Sinks: Sprinkle baking powder into a sink and scrub with the cut side of a lemon. Powerful cleaning and deodorizing!

Make Stainless Sinks Sparkle: Clean a stainless steel sink by sprinkling baking powder inside and using a sponge to scrub clean. Voila!

Mop Floors: Add a half-cup of baking soda to a bucket of water and use the mixture to clean floors (does not apply to wood floors).

Freshen Carpets: Sprinkle baking soda onto area rugs and carpets before vacuuming for a clean, fresh scent.

Deodorize Small Spaces: Open a fresh box of baking soda and place it in a closet to fight odors. Ditto for deodorizing the back of a busy SUV or minivan, and the inside of the fridge.

De-Stink Shoes: Sprinkle baking soda inside odorous shoes and let it sit overnight. Empty it out of the shoes before wearing.

BAKING
SODA

Boho Au Natural

Boho chic is inspired by found items, layering and making the everyday item beautiful. Finding items out in nature is a perfect place to start.

Staying Wild

Bringing in the outdoors is a plus in any type of decor. Boho chic homes make use of all kinds of natural decor.

Pampas Grass

You've probably seen the tall, fluffy, feathery plumes of *Cortaderia selloana*, aka pampas grass, in statement vases and decorative containers all over social media.

Native to South America, this elegantly showy and nontoxic grass grows like a weed in warm climates with lots of sun. When it is cut and dried for decorative purposes, it can maintain its lush, fluffy beauty for years with minimal care—and, of course, zero watering! This low-maintenance designer darling has gained popularity for its ability to elevate almost any space and pair nicely with a variety of color palettes and decorating styles. Its natural golden shade complements a chicly sophisticated neutral palette and can serve as a dramatic contrast in front of darkly colored walls or add much-needed softness to a starkly minimal space.

Available in naturally occurring colors of pink, pale gold and lavender, pampas grass can also be dyed for customized coolness.

Group fronds in uneven numbers (e.g., 3, 5, or 7). Cut stems short to create a tabletop centerpiece or go long and allow them to stand tall in a sculptural floor stand or container. Classic, contemporary and oh-so-boho!

Long Live Fresh Flowers

Cut flowers, whether from your garden, a grocery store or a favorite florist, breathe life, color, and beauty into any room. Here's how to keep them looking fresh:

Using garden shears or large scissors, give each stem a fresh cut on the bottom at an angle, then remove any leaves or greenery that will be submerged below the water line. The angled cut allows for better water absorption, and eliminating the greenery (which rots and gets slimy) reduces bacteria in the water. Bacteria is the enemy!

For flowers and branches with thick, woody stems (lilacs, dogwood, forsythia, winter greens and hardy flowers), use shears or a box cutter to make a

vertical cut a half-inch to an inch up the stem from the bottom. This helps the stem stay hydrated.

For long-lasting hydrangea blooms, submerge the flowers "face down" in cold water for an hour before arranging in a vase or container.

Sappy flowers (that produce a milky substance when cut) like daffodils and poinsettias will last longer if the tips of the cut stems are submerged into boiling water for 30 seconds before arranging. Singeing the stem prevents the sap from sealing up the waterway and foiling hydration.

Do use the flower food packets you get when you buy a bouquet! If possible, ask for extras to use for water changes. Change the water and recut the stems every one or two days.

Avoid placing flower arrangements near fruit. Really! The ethylene gas released by the ripening fruit (looking at you especially, bananas!) also speeds the aging process for flowers.

If possible, put your arrangement in the fridge (or on a chilly porch) overnight. The crisp, cold air will make the blooms last longer.

Share your soda! A quarter-cup of clear soda (Sprite or 7-Up, for example) added to fresh water keeps petals perkier.

Making Arrangements

You don't need to be a professional florist to create beautiful bouquets, but it helps to know a few tricks.

Do not overcrowd the vase. If there isn't enough room for the flowers to move comfortably in the container (versus being jammed tightly together), take some out and use them for a second—or third—smaller arrangement.

Cut the stems to slightly different lengths to allow for a sense of dimension; you will also be able to see the individual flowers better from the sides. Put tall flowers in the center, shorter flowers around the sides. Don't be afraid to cut the stems short to fit into a unique vessel. Cut one stem first to test for length, and trim further if necessary. You will be able to use the first stem as a rough guide.

Then, after filling the vase with water, cover the opening with criss-crossing strips of tape and insert the stems into the water through the open framework. Make sure there are enough flowers and greenery to cover up the tape.

When creating a bouquet, begin with the center flowers first, then add evenly to the sides in a circular pattern working from the inside out. Space the flowers around the arrangement, alternating colors and shapes.

To avoid fussing with tape, you can, after creating the bouquet, use a rubber band, florist tape, kitchen twine or ribbon (cute if your container is clear glass) to gather and hold the stems together—not too tight, or the arrangement will lose its volume and its softly natural appearance.

Take your time and have fun!

The Biophilic Bohemian

Leafy green plants, spiky succulents, sculptural palms and trailing vines are an integral part of every bohemian interior. The lush life, color and texture they contribute ushers nature and all of its wild, untamed beauty inside.

EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT as the greenery, however, are the pots, vessels, baskets and stands used to showcase it. Beyond their functional purpose, containers present an opportunity to inject color, pattern, texture and metallic finishes into a room, offering a fast, affordable and exciting way to update a space.

To transform a space with curated containers, start by assessing what type of aesthetic you want to bring to your space. Do you want to add texture? Color or pattern? Will the pots play a starring role at the front door or on a tabletop or mantel?

When creating vignettes with plants, it is generally a good idea to think in terms of threes. An uneven number of items grouped together is universally agreed to be more attractive to the eye than an even number. Of course, there are exceptions. Two gorgeous pots flanking a doorway or twin containers on a sideboard add symmetry to a special area of your home.

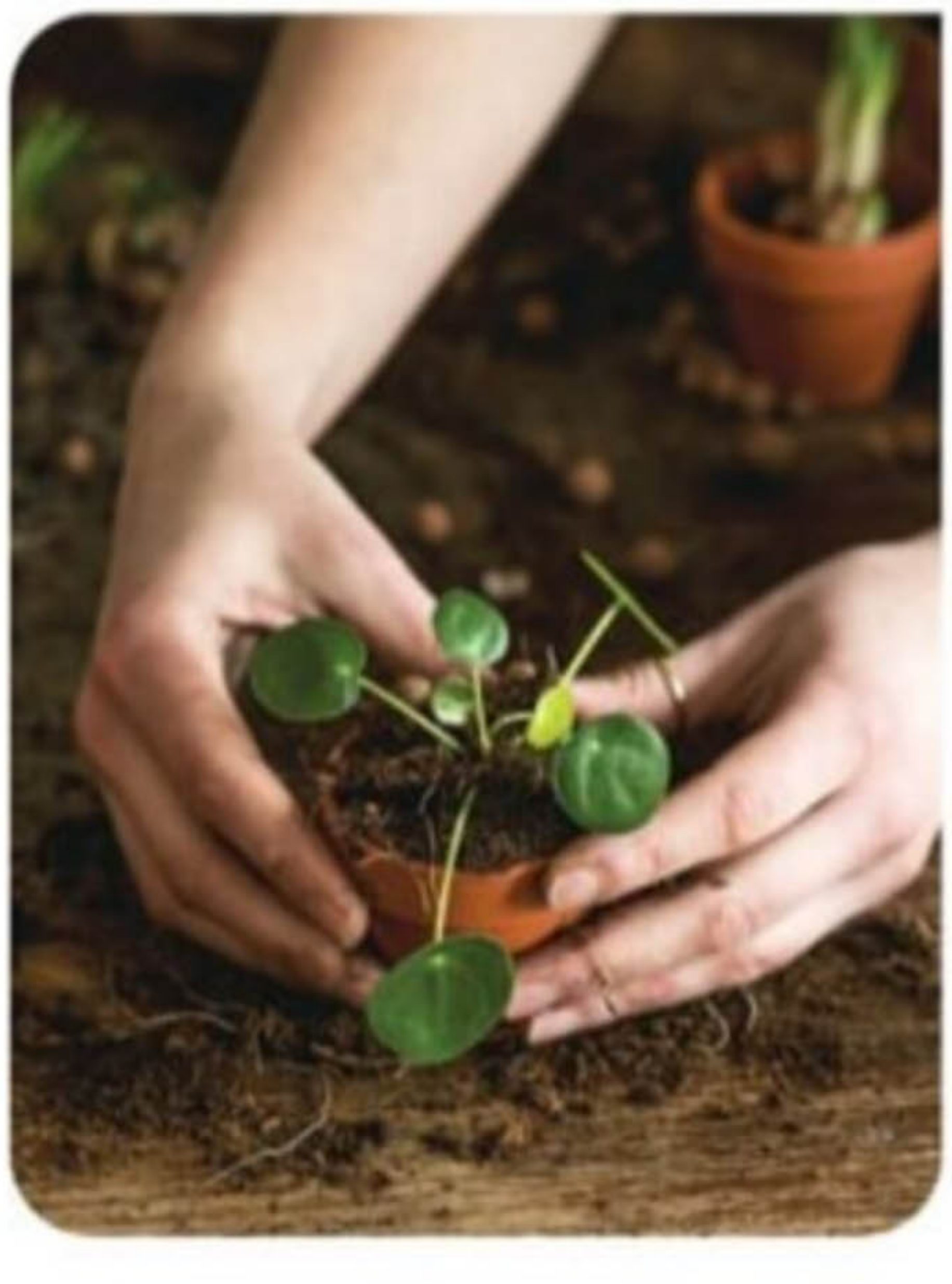
In terms of style, think of it as coordinating instead of matching. The pots should look related but not identical; choose a variety of shapes and heights. If you do use the same size pots, consider staggering them on stacked books, a step stool or risers to create dimension and interest and display the beauty of each plant more fully.

Some pots are considered an investment. Sculptural mid-century pots and planters from an acclaimed artist like Willy Guhl retail in the thousands, along with similarly priced antique designs or new, contemporary styles from modern artists. However, if your spending happens to be more in line with mere mortals, you can find an array of designs and styles at every price point—and don't forget baskets. A boho favorite, inexpensive baskets have a natural, organic and rustic feel.

Plants can be pricey, but with a little time and patience, you can grow your own.

THE GORGEOUS GREENS of live plants count as a color in your design scheme and are especially impactful when used within a monochromatic space. Think of your plants as decor, and use them to weave a lush green vibe throughout the interior.

First, choose plants that will thrive in the available light, then strategically situate them at different levels (floor, tabletop, eye level) to blend them visually into the space. Threading the leafy green color throughout the room leads the eye and can make the square footage feel more expansive. Placing a large potted plant or tree at floor level, medium-sized house plants at counter or tabletop height, and another on a high shelf or mantel or cascading gracefully in a chic little hanger creates dimension and a lovely, layered look.



Free Plants!

Propagation is the process of growing new plants from existing ones. Ask friends of yours who have green thumbs if you can have a cutting from one of their plants—then follow the easy directions below and wait!

Chinese Money Plant

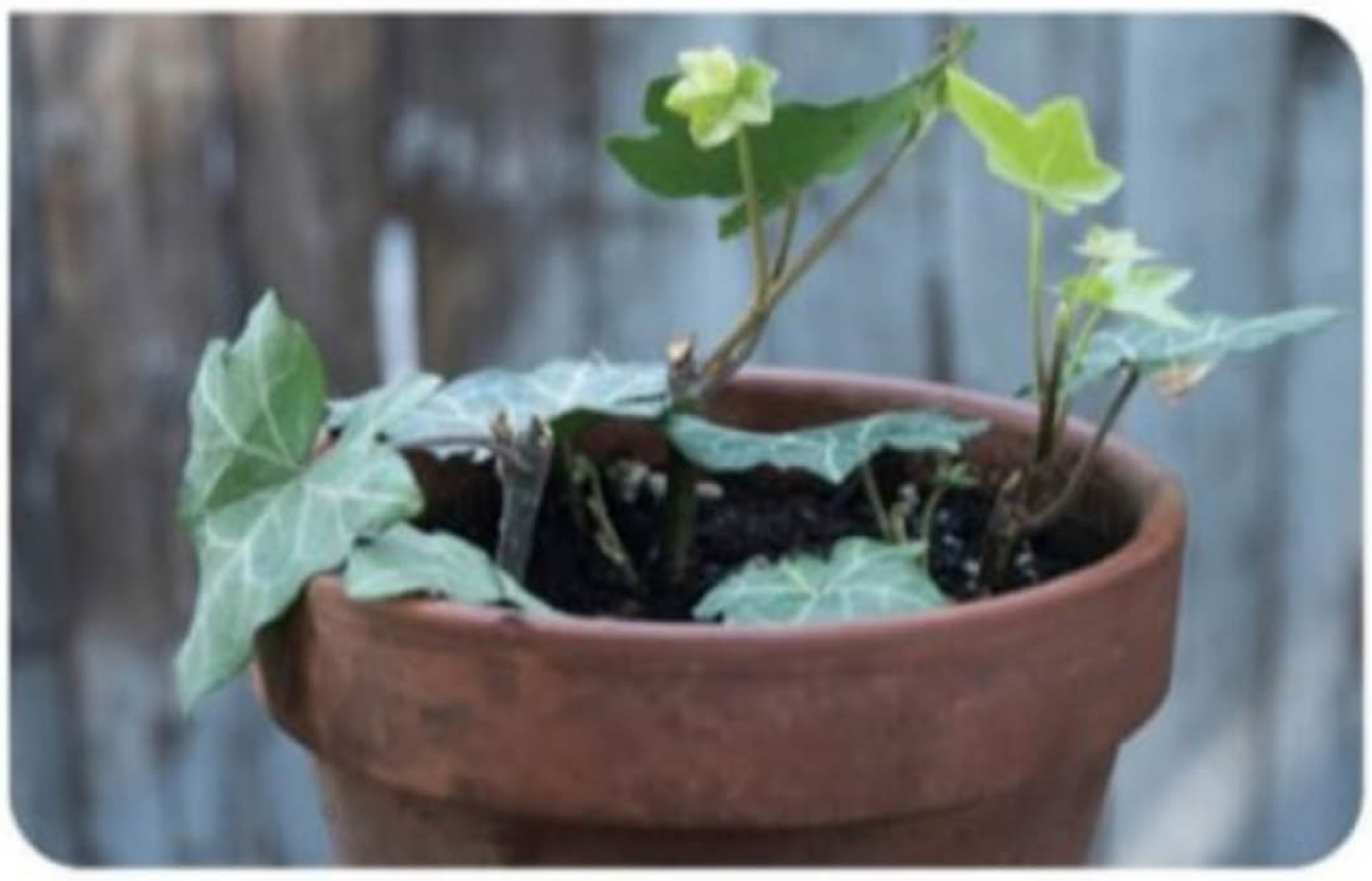
This plant propagates so easily it is also called the "friendship plant" or "pass-it-on" plant because of how often it is shared.

The plant grows from an underground stem called a rhizome. As the plant grows, the rhizome grows too and branches off into new plants. These "pups" pop up in the soil beside the original plant and also can grow connected to the base of the parent plant.

To unearth the pup growing in the soil, gently dig into the soil with your fingers, find where it attaches to the rhizome, and, taking a little bit of the rhizome, cut the pup and attached roots free. Place the pup in water to root.

Allow the roots to grow one or two inches in water before planting into moist potting soil. Don't let the roots grow too long in the water or they may have difficulty adapting to the soil when you pot them.

English Ivy

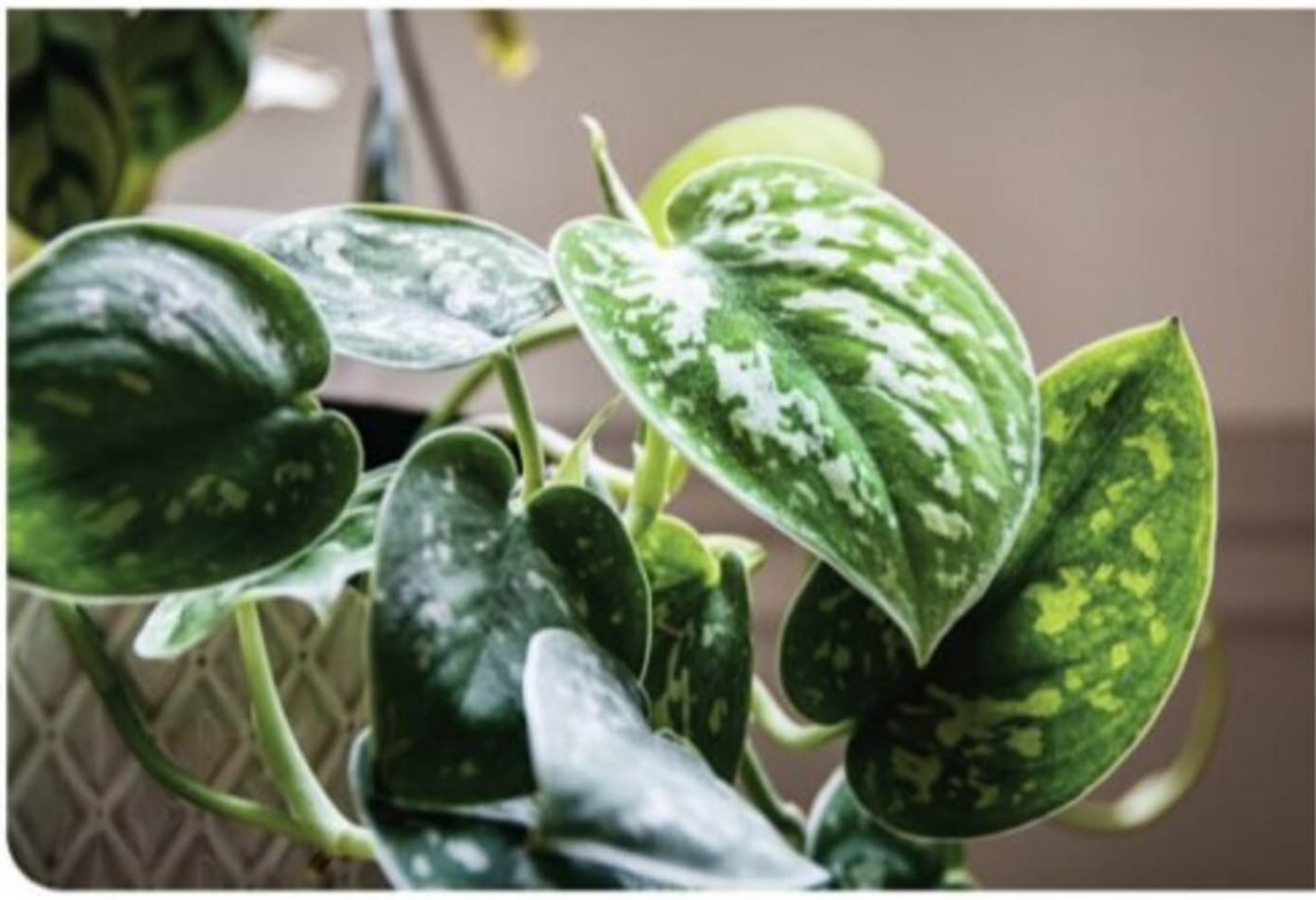


Clip a healthy, five-inch-long stem and place the cut end in water (like a cut flower). When you see roots develop, plant the cutting into a pot filled with moist potting soil or directly into damp earth where it will spread as ground cover.

Monstera

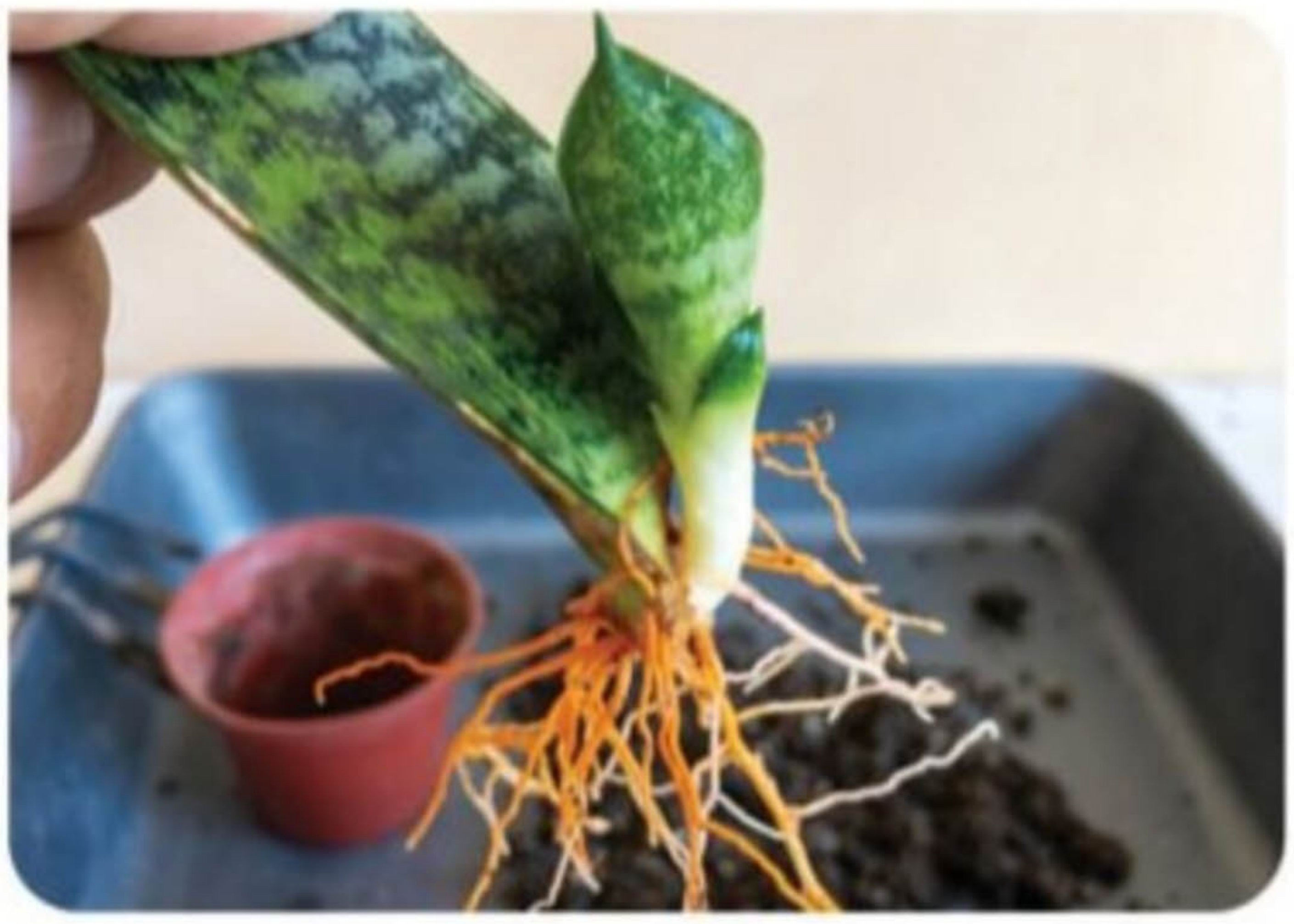
There are several ways to propagate a monstera, but one of the easiest is by taking a cutting. Using sharp, clean shears, carefully cut a healthy leaf just beneath where the bulb at the end of the leaf stem meets the stalk of the main plant. Place the cutting into water, wait for it to develop one to two inches of roots, then plant in moist potting soil.

Pothos



Snip the vine at a place just below where you see a new leaf emerging. Next find the nodes on your clipping—the little bulb where the leaf attaches to the vine—and cut the leaf off the vine about a quarter-inch on either side of the node. Place each leaf clipping into water and wait two to four weeks for new roots. When the roots are about an inch long, place the clippings into a pot with fresh, moist soil.

Snake Plant



To grow a new plant from cuttings, clip a healthy leaf with sharp shears and set it aside without water to dry. Wait three to 15 days for the cut end of the leaf to callus over, then plant the leaf, callused side down, into a pot filled with damp sand. In a couple of weeks, the new plant will take root.

BOHO Home

Boho Home by Room

Transform your home into a boho retreat one room at a time.

Creating a Boho Bedroom

In a boho chic bedroom, the focus is once again on indulging the senses and, as in all things, following your heart.

Dress the Bed

Bed linens, blankets, quilts, duvet covers and coverlets all contribute to the sleep experience and the overall look and feel of the room. They set the tone for the room and should offer a sense of both joy and comfort so that you can sink into relaxation at the end of the day. A distinctive print or color can serve as inspiration for the room and make design decisions easier. Decorative pillows and a throw blanket can provide layered color and texture, the hallmark of boho chic.

When deciding how many pillows to pile on the bed, two pillows per person for sleeping, stacked on top of each other, is a good start. Then add two large Euro pillows (26x26 inch squares) or oversized decorative pillows placed face out (not up), one in front of each stack. Next, layer smaller, lumbar-sized support pillows in front of the Euros, and finish things off with a bolster (tube-shaped pillow) in the center front. Some people add more, some less.

Coordinate the pillows, choosing shades within a color family and blend a range of prints, textures and fabrics. Toss in metallic finishes, faux furs, sequins, fringe, ruffles and embroidery for personality, dimension and texture.

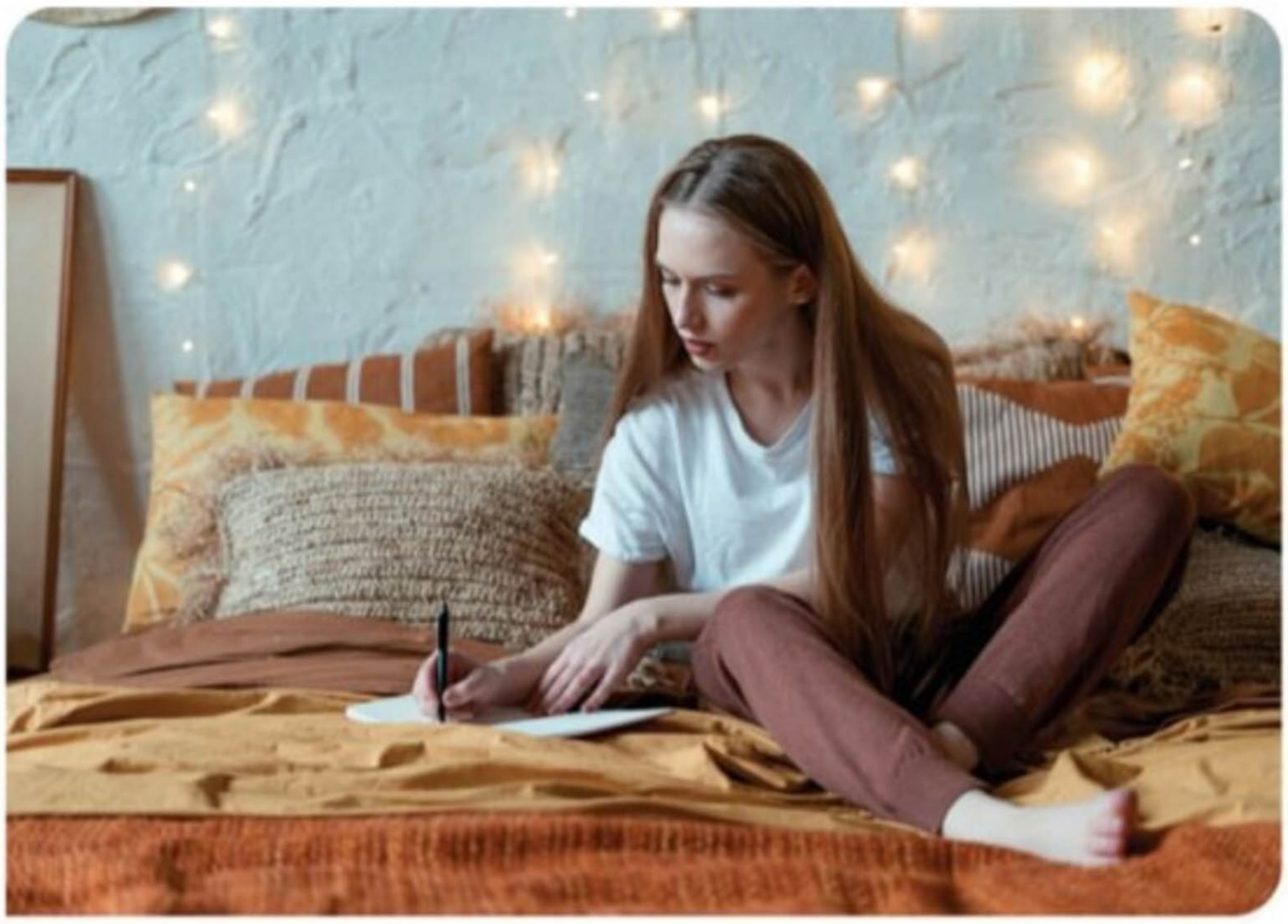
Walls

Your walls offer an opportunity to play with luxe colors and dramatic wall coverings that can turn a bedroom from bland to boho with a few brush strokes of a deep fuchsia, jewel-toned blue or rich cinnamon.

Wallpapers with a touch of metallic will glow in low light. The wall behind the bed's headboard could play host to a statement-making wallpaper mural (a design that does not repeat) or offer a place to walk on the wild side with print or pattern.

Bohemian-themed prints to consider include jungle plants and vines, tigers, leopards, monkeys and more; abstract prints; garden motifs; rich, darkly colored celestial designs; ethnic prints in elegant jewel tones; inky florals; and splashes of abstract watercolors.

Woven wall hangings designed in nubby, textural knits and weaves are also a great way to layer a room with warmth and whimsy. Referred to as fiber art, the textural yarn is expertly knotted, crocheted and woven in a variety of patterns, shapes, sizes and colors. Wood, glass, ceramic or metal beads are sometimes added for dimension, and the overall effect lends artwork handmade appeal while providing a softer alternative to framed wall decor.



Lighting

Lighting can make or break a room. Lighting that is too harsh and bright can make colors look flat and artificial, lacking warmth and depth. Dimmer switches and three-way light bulbs for table lamps are an easy way to ensure the lighting in the space suits the decor and the mood.

Details and Embellishment

Unexpected touches can create a sense of personality and fun. Mosquito netting hung in a dream-like fashion over the bed may be just the romantic gesture you were looking for. A tray of flickering candles (battery operated if you fear falling asleep with them on!) for atmosphere or a few fresh-cut flowers on the dresser are luxurious accents. Wallpaper on the ceiling, herbal-scented room spray, a plush area rug, a faux fur throw blanket, or glow-in-the-dark stars in the shape of a constellation on the ceiling can all create a layered special effect.

Bohemian Lullabye

The classic bohemian nursery embraces the colors of a desert sunset and the natural, organic feel of woven rattan, myriad baskets, handcrafted macramé, nubby textiles and smooth, pale wood.

THOUGHTFULLY APPOINTED with nontoxic surfaces, organic materials and non-off-gassing VOC-free paint, the eco-friendly room is a haven of good health, environmentally aware choices and baby's first sanctuary.

As in any nursery, the centerpiece of the room is a well-considered crib. For boho babies, the choice is often a simple, minimalistic design with straight, clean lines crafted of natural wood or rattan. Curved corners and rounded arc-shaped head and foot boards are also part of the trend and add an appealing sense of softness.

Moses baskets, long, infant-sized woven baskets with carrying handles, are a sweet addition to any nursery and look especially at home amid bohemian decor. Their elegantly simple shapes and natural, tactile materials feature wicker and rattan, woven palm leaf, naturally dyed grasses or felted wool. These portable newborn "cribs" can be used for decoratively storing stuffed animals and toys once they have been outgrown.

BOHO BABY AND TODDLER SWINGS are also a perfect fit for the newest bohemians. Handcrafted options abound online where they are cleverly constructed of sturdy macramé or natural fabrics (linen, cotton) and supported with natural wood dowels. Long fringe, tassels, wooden beads and lacy, open-weave crochet details give the swings a sweet, hippie-chic style.

The boho nursery look skews gender-neutral thanks to dusty palettes of sand, ecru, peach, gold, sage, pale blue, sea glass, soft rose, lilac, tan, rust, burnt sienna, muted orange, terracotta and moss.

Choosing to focus on three to five colors makes it easier to pull together a cohesive theme throughout the room. For instant impact, wallpaper is an easy way to set the tone and make a statement. Use it to cover the entire room, just the ceiling, or the wall behind the crib for maximum impact.

Mobiles are another must-have item, and the boho-inspired options are a charming collection of handwoven, felted and knotted materials—macramé, feathers and beads—shaped like llamas, spiky succulents, and rainbows. Fun for baby, and darling for decor.

Boho Bathroom Decor

Bohemian style is a natural fit for a zen-like bathroom. Think “spa.” Surround yourself with organic towels, natural wood accessories, and woven seagrass, wicker and rattan baskets, plant stands, shelves and decor. Area rugs can bring in color or keep things neutral with nubby texture and tone-on-tone design.

WOVEN TEXTILE WALL HANGINGS are also a good fit for a space that has to take moisture into consideration, and, of course, bring on the plants.

If storage space is a challenge, ruthlessly edit what you need and keep only daily necessities in the room. Less stuff, more serenity. Organize everything else in a bin or drawer in a nearby linen closet or hallway cupboard. You may find out you hardly miss it!

Bringing Nature In

Some plants love a humid environment and the kind of bright, indirect light that makes them perfect for placement inside a bathroom. We've rounded up five of our favorites:

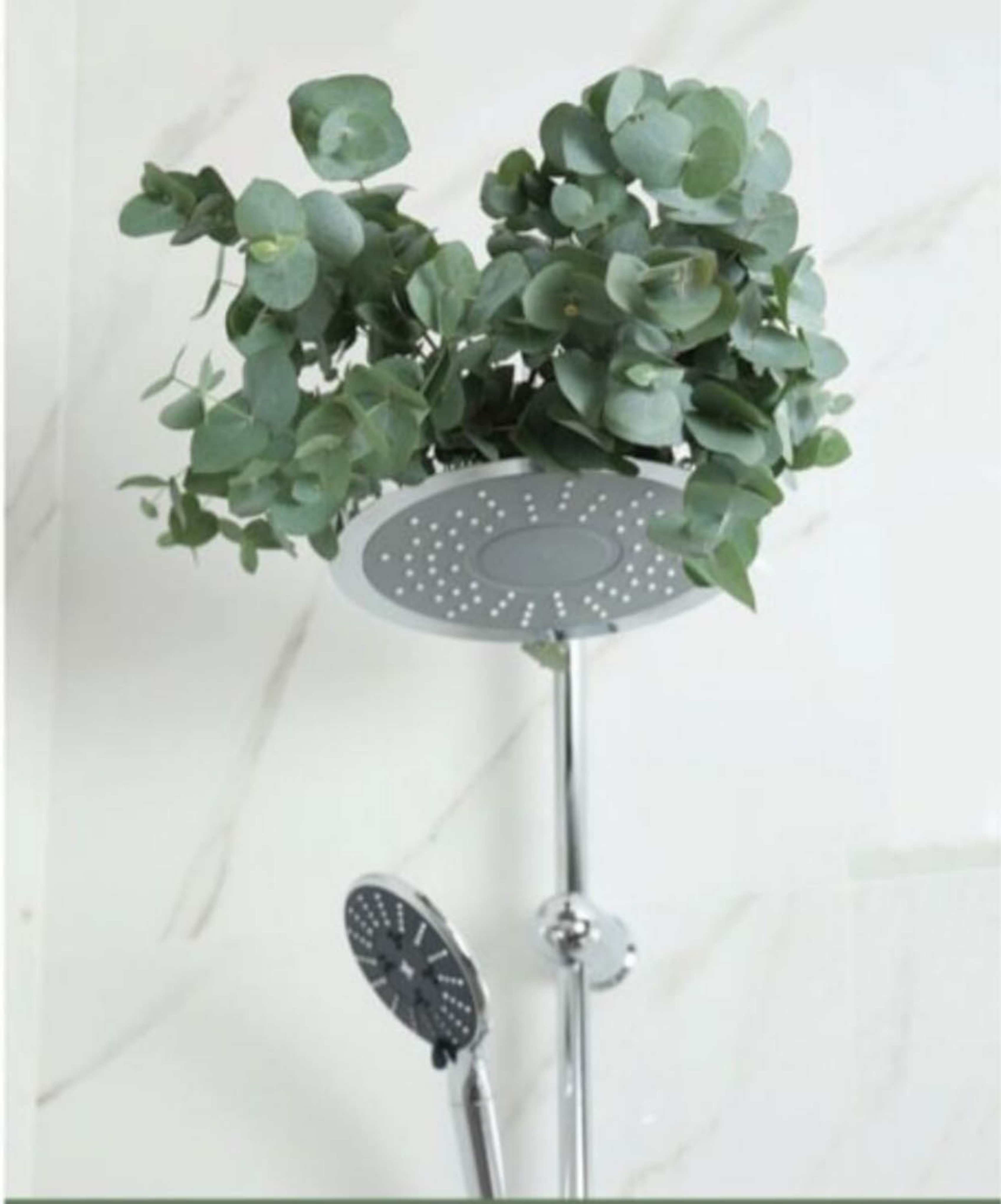
Aloe Vera: This sculptural drought-tolerant succulent will thrive in indirect light and occasional humidity. Bonus points: If you break one of the leaves off and snap it in half, the clear gel inside the plant can relieve the discomfort of sunburns, bug bites and cuts.

Boston Fern: Bushy and lush, these ferns look great in hanging planters and on stands. Be sure to mist them when the weather turns chilly and conditions inside the house are dry.

Calathea: Bathroom-friendly with pretty, colorful leaves.

Pothos: Hardy, fast-growing and adaptable to almost any climate, these lovely vines will trail around the bathroom, or you can keep them clipped for a bushier plant with more volume.

ZZ Plant: Also called the zuzu plant, the eternity plant and the Zanzibar gem, this hardy, drought-tolerant plant has shiny oval leaves and an easy-going demeanor. Don't overwater!



DIY Eucalyptus Bundle

Create a spa-like shower experience by incorporating a eucalyptus bundle that is quick, easy and affordable to make into your daily routine. The essential oils released from the leaves are credited with easing congestion and promoting a sense of calm and well-being.

The steam from a shower activates the natural oils of the eucalyptus, which should stay potent for about two weeks.

To begin, select six to 12 stems of eucalyptus, cut the bottom tips at an angle and strip the leaves from the bottom quarter of each branch. Hold the stems together in a bunch and wrap twine, floral wire or ribbon tightly around the bottom of the bouquet to keep it firmly together. Leave a long length that will allow it to hang from the neck of the shower. Position the bouquet in a place where it will be activated by the steam, but away from the direct spray of water.

Sprinkle a few drops of essential oils onto the leaves as needed to keep the bouquet smelling fresh for two to three weeks.

A Boho Dining Room

To set a bohemian table, begin by abandoning tradition. Lean in to creating something fun, playful, sensuous and possibly unexpected.

Table It

The first consideration is what to use for a dining table, and where. Although the dining room is an obvious choice, if weather and time permit, the interior table could also be relocated to a temporary location in a garden, sunporch, greenhouse, barn, on a roof deck or beneath the canopy of your favorite tree.

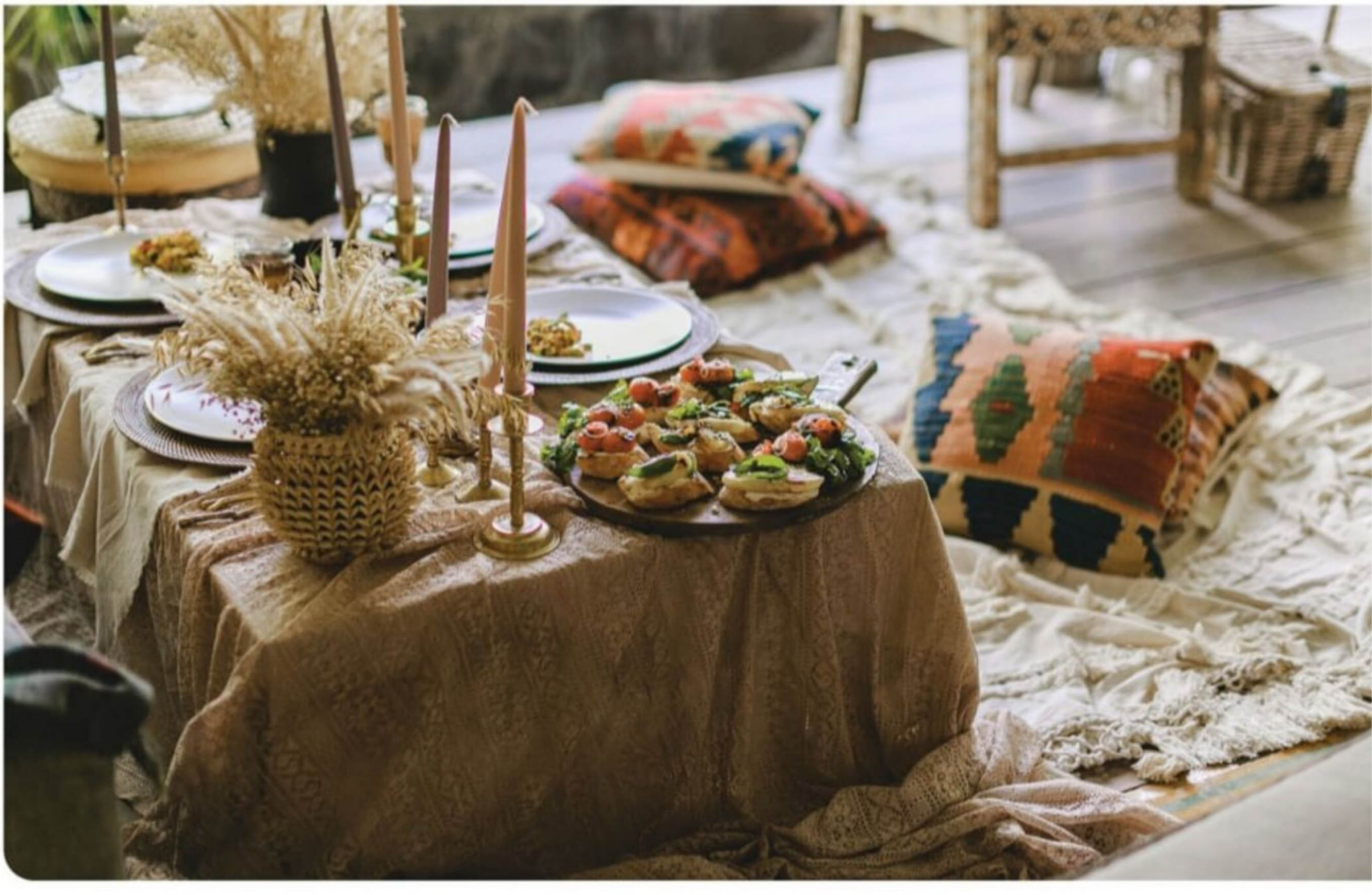
If it's too much trouble to bring the dining table outside, makeshift tables of any size can be created out of sawhorses and plywood boards, or a collection of folding tables—or, of course, you can borrow a table or rent one from a local party rental service (it may be more affordable than you think!).

For an oh-so-bohemian vibe, place plywood boards, old doors or planks on top of milk crates, stacked cinder blocks, or large buckets to serve as a low-level table (you will be covering them with fabric and won't see the materials). Instead of chairs, supply thick cushions, pillows or low-profile beach chairs for seating. Layering area rugs beneath the cushions and tables would be a great boho touch.

Do warn guests if they will be sitting on cushions or dining al fresco so they can dress accordingly!

The Cover-Up

The boho vibe is lush and layered, so table coverings should be chosen in keeping with that free-flowing aesthetic. Get creative. Use an Indian sari fabric in a deep tone, repurpose a large quilt in a pretty print or color, or splatter canvas drop cloths with paint and finish the edges with a simple hem (or not). Lay flowy



fabric over the table and allow it to puddle on the floor—sometimes inexpensive panel draperies are the cheapest way to do this. You can even throw a clean flat-weave area rug across the surface, nomad-style, with bonus points for a cool vintage design or layering multiple area rugs. Drape patterned, mismatched shawls or plaid wool blankets if the weather is turning cool. Sew up your own tablecloth and hot-glue decorative trim to the edges: fringe, pom-poms, beads and tassels.

Decor

Dim the lights.

Then, in the spirit of bohemian maximalism, turn up the volume. Think in terms of creating a vignette with several different items, plants, and flowers, or showcasing multiples of something similar. Aim to create dimension and visual excitement in your tablescape by using glassware and decor in a variety of heights.

A little inspiration: Arrange a cluster of mismatched silver or wooden candlesticks of varying sizes and designs in the center or down the length of the table. Set a collection of lanterns placed on, above, or around the eating area. Swag an abundance of fairy lights criss-crossing overhead. Set lovely paper lanterns in the center of the table or strung from above. Deconstruct a bouquet and group small glass bottles or jars holding one, two or three stems of flowers, herbs or greenery placed in a meandering fashion. Use old books (chosen for their vintage vibe, themed subject matter or pretty colored covers) to create low stacks or pedestals to elevate small arrangements of flowers. Display a collection of vintage silver trophy cups and bowls holding greenery, pinecones or shells. Plant herbs or succulents in vintage teacups and scatter all over the table (maybe guests can bring one home). Showcase rustic wooden bowls holding oranges or green apples. Choose a single statement flower (hydrangea, orange marigolds, tulips, daisies, chamomile, eucalyptus or peonies) to put in baskets, vases or mason jars. Choose seasonal branches from your yard—autumn leaves, springtime blooms, winter evergreens—to display in vases, baskets, or glass bottles.

When in doubt, add more candles. Unscented candles are best for a dinner table since you don't want fragrance competing with the aroma of the food!

Glassware

Your glasses don't all have to match, but the look should be special. Add visual interest to your tablescape by using both stemmed and non-stemmed glassware. Fancy crystal is always lovely, but so are mason jars and jelly jars if your vibe is fun and casual. The candle light reflecting off the glasses will add sparkle to the table.

Napkins

Cloth napkins can be expensive, but they last. Look for ones that suit your budget and buy more than you think you need. You will use them.

Creative napkin alternatives include fresh, matching dish towels, folded at each place setting or layered beneath the plate or utensils. Keep the dish towels looking table-ready by taking them off kitchen duty. Or opt for cotton printed bandanas. Or buy inexpensive white or neutral-colored cotton napkins and tie-dye or batik them to make them your own.

Placing the napkin on top of the plate instead of beneath the silverware adds drama to the table setting. If you're using napkin rings, open up the napkin to lie flat, and fold it in half. Slide the napkin ring over one end of the folded fabric and halfway up; then, place it on top of a plate and fan out the fabric a bit on each end.

No rings? Use twine, ribbon, raffia, or strips of fabric to tie the napkin in the middle instead—you could also tuck a twig, craft feather, stem of rosemary or flower, or big fall leaf into the tied napkin on the top.

If you are getting the idea that setting a creative table is a lot like designing a room—you are right. The same elements we consider for a living space—color, pattern, texture, scale and dimension, comfort and personality—are what bring a tablescape to life as well.

The visual look and sensuous feel of the varied materials pull everything together. Without that interest, the table may feel flat and uninspired.

Boho Chic Living

Figure out how you want to express your sartorial Boho style in a way that suits you best.

Beyond Flower Crowns

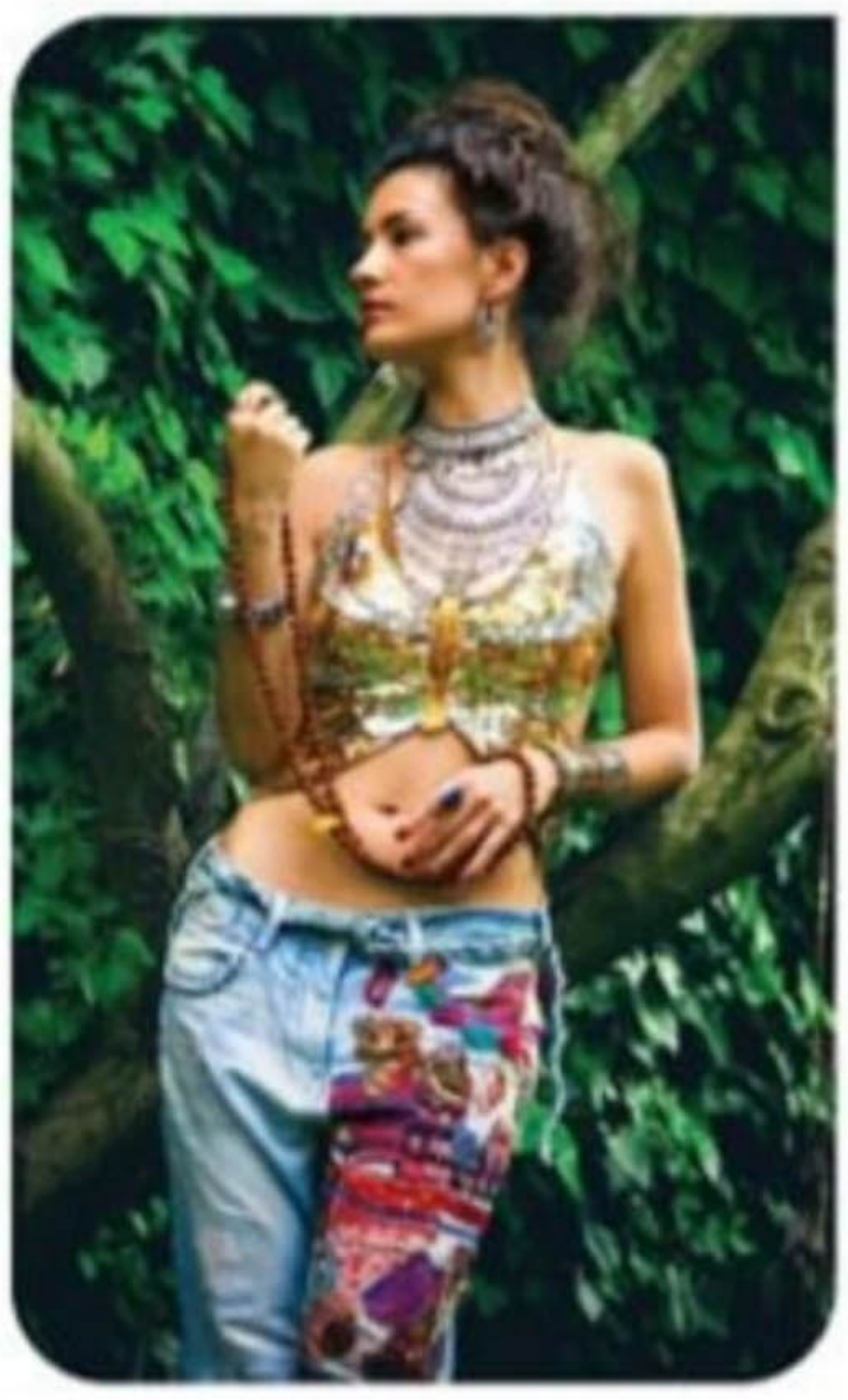
Interpreting bohemian fashion, like the aesthetic itself, is an exercise in personal style. Comfort is key, and easy, breezy freedom of movement and motion is not only important, but required.

CLASSIC ELEMENTS of a boho wardrobe include tunic tops and peasant blouses; maxi dresses; flowy, flirty tiered skirts; denim jackets, shorts and jeans; vintage graphic T-shirts; slouchy sweaters; colorful shawls; long floaty caftans and kimonos; wide-legged pants; and loose sundresses.

Words like *flowy*, *swishy*, *poetic* and *soft* come to mind. Although the relaxed, casual shapes are a hallmark of the dreamy, hippie-chic style, it is the distinctive colors, patterns, prints, fabrics and trims that set the tone.

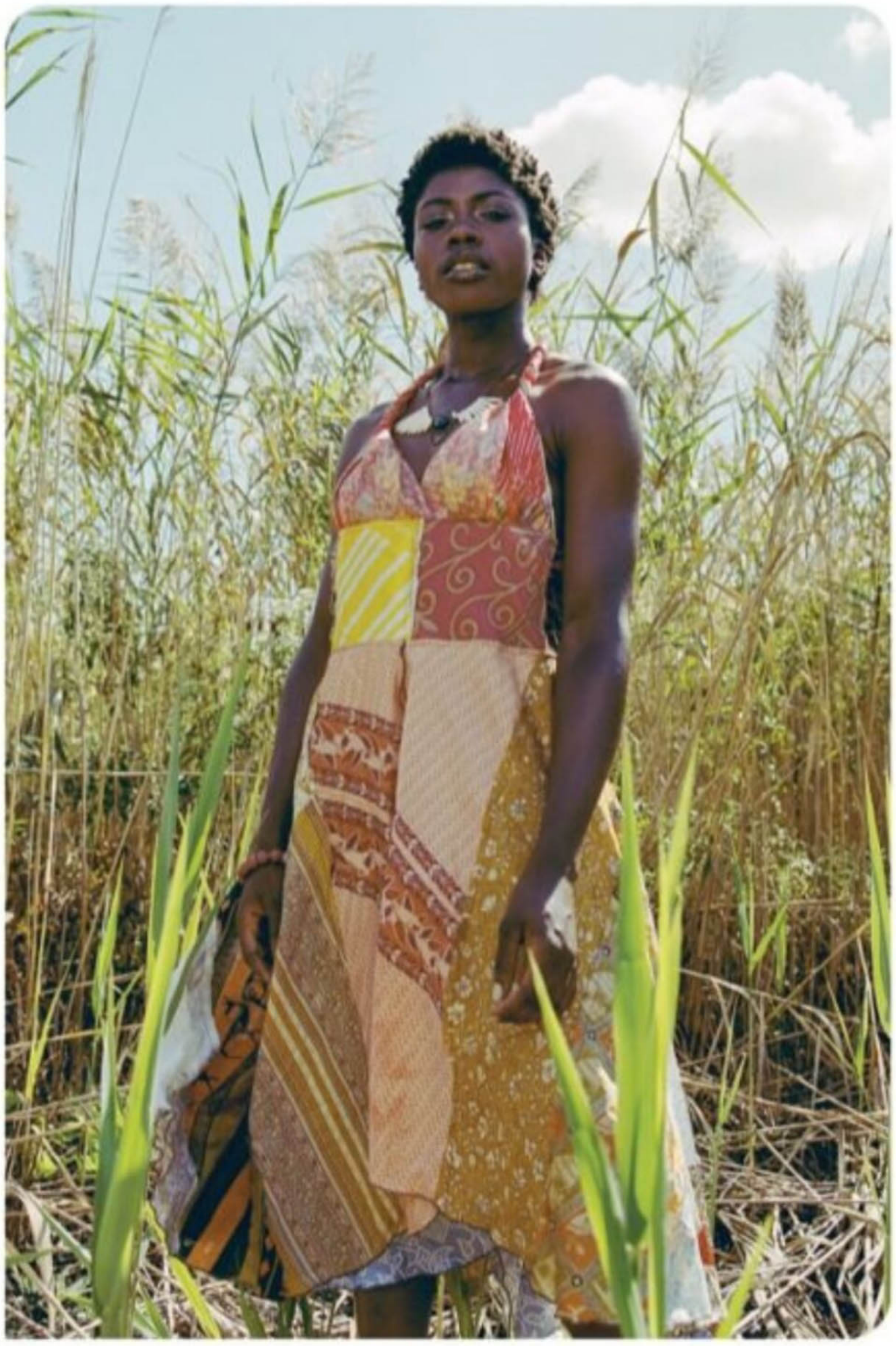
Fabrics favor natural fibers, such as cotton, linen, flax, hemp, wool, silk, angora, mohair, cashmere, leather, suede and Sherpa (synthetic lambswool). The materials are a natural fit because they allow the skin to breathe, stay cool in summer and warm in winter, and are not created with petroleum-based synthetics.

Patchworked materials, originally created to make the most of fabric scraps or extend the life of worn-out garments, are prized for their colorful charm and happy, eccentric patterns. Patchworks stitched together with a riot of prints, crocheted squares, mismatched wool, denim, leather or myriad pieces of fabric and lace have the timeless appeal of classic boho.



Denim is ubiquitous in the bohemian closet. Look for soft, buttery, gently worn textures as well as ripped, sandblasted, and sun-bleached denims that have been patchworked, fringed, embroidered, embellished, distressed, patched or painted. Thrift it, repurpose it, upcycle it, wear it.

The prints and patterns that define boho style are inspired by travel and cultures from around the world: paisley, ikat and block prints from India, Japanese Shibori prints, Native American blankets and beading, African mudcloth (textiles on which beautiful patterns are created using mud), European florals, Scandinavian stamped prints, Cepuk and Poleng fabrics from Bali—and more. Tie-dyed garments, ombré effects (striations of color that move from dark to light) and hand-painted designs are also on point.



Bohemians are romantics to the core, and the details of their clothing reflect the sensuality and passion inherent to the lifestyle. Fun, free-spirited details include fringe, lace, corset-style lace-ups, beading, appliques, patches, embroidery, crochet details, pretty fastenings, tassels, pom-poms, ruffles and ribbons.

Accessories complete the look with a focus on vintage vibes that include floppy felt ’70s-style hats, fringed or patterned shawls, and wedged shoes, boots, clogs, and sandals. Natural materials steal the spotlight for boho bags and jewelry pieces that tell a story. Leaning heavily on designs inspired by mysticism, spirituality, global cultures, and nature, boho accessories are a great way to experiment with the trend.

Turquoise and silver designs, gemstones paired with leather, tribal-looking etched cuffs, bangles and rings, hoop earrings, layered necklaces and wrists stacked with bracelets and wrapped with beads speak to self-expression and exploration. More is more. All that glitters is good.

THE BOHO TREND

When it comes to fashion trends with deep roots in the bohemian lifestyle, Swasti Sarna, global director of data insights for San Francisco-based Pinterest, the online resource for visual imagery and inspiration, reports that the beloved looks show no sign of slowing.

Like all fashion, however, the boho look evolves and there are always opportunities for newness and interpretation. Sarna says one twist worth noting is the trend toward "edgy boho." Similar to the "whimsigoth" aesthetic she sees gaining ground in home decor, the look skews a little darker, sexier, more mystical, and less sweet and innocent. "Edgy boho is bohemian style but you see black clothing paired with a statement piece in a boho chic print or pattern," says Sarna.

She also notes that Generation Z (the generation born between 1997 and 2012) is putting its own stamp on boho trend direction. "Boho indie style was trending last summer and was really being driven by the Gen Z audience. They have made [the look] all about bright colors, smiley face nails, almost a hippie look—but very vibrant and bright," says Sarna. Wardrobe staples include wide-legged jeans, maxi dresses and "comfy outfits."

Interest in western boho has also soared. "It's centered around staples like cowboy hats, fringed dresses, and boots," says Sarna, "but again with that boho style"—floral dresses with boots, wide-legged or flared jeans and pants, turquoise and silver accessories and lots of fringe. "So maybe it's a black cowboy hat with a black coat with fringe on it; fringe is a bohemian detail, so it makes sense to blend it with the western style because it fits."

At the other end of the boho spectrum, the preppy boho aesthetic is also trending. "This style combines free-spirited bohemian clothing with pinks and blues," says Sarna, "maybe some collared shirts, natural fabrics, it's like a more chic boho." Loose, button-down shirts, flowy miniskirts, pastel colors, lots of layers, a sense of softness and florals all contribute to the concept.

Boho beauty completes the head-to-toe fashion statement with a focus on healthy skin and hair.

Sarna says protective hairstyles for African American women, those aimed at maintaining or growing out natural black hair, are also trending in popularity on Pinterest. "Boho passion twists are up . . . boho knotless braids are up . . . these looks are different from the tight passion twists or braids where all of the hair is braided. These styles leave some of the hair loose and allow for more waves and a more bohemian style."

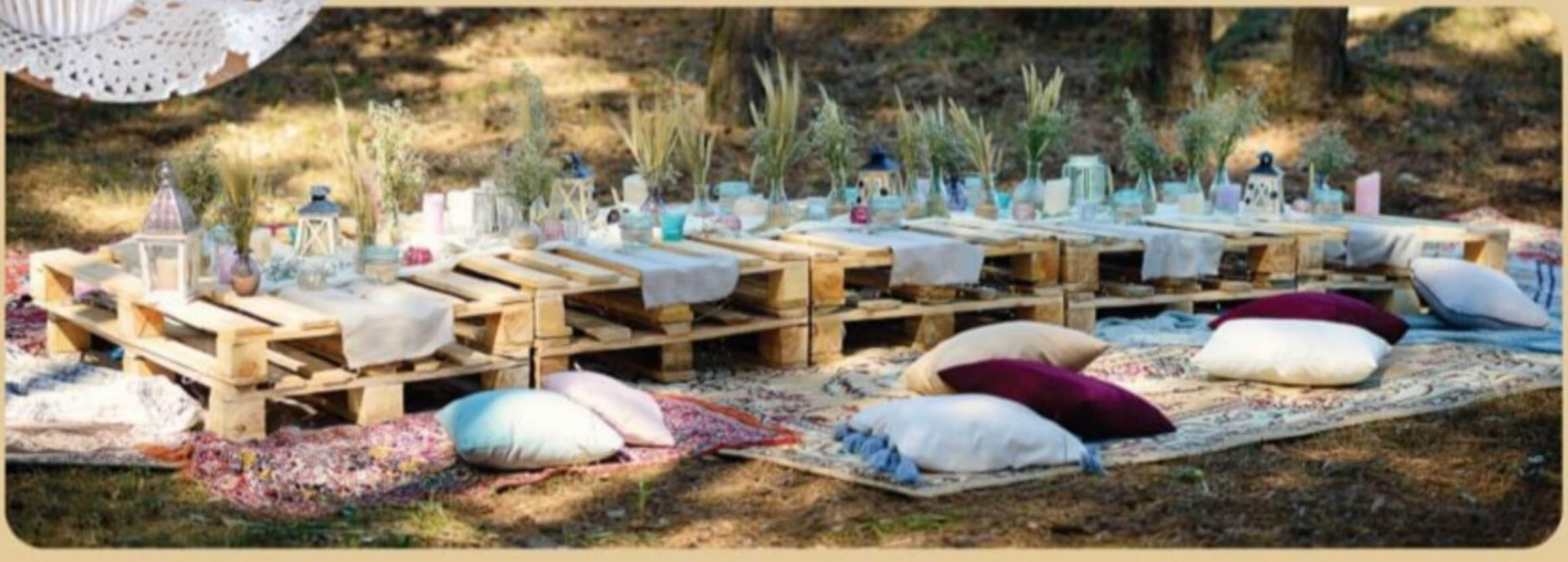
According to Sarna, oftentimes what starts as a series of lifestyle choices evolves into a personal aesthetic. "I think the [boho look] is going to last for a while," says Sarna; "it's definitely not going anywhere."

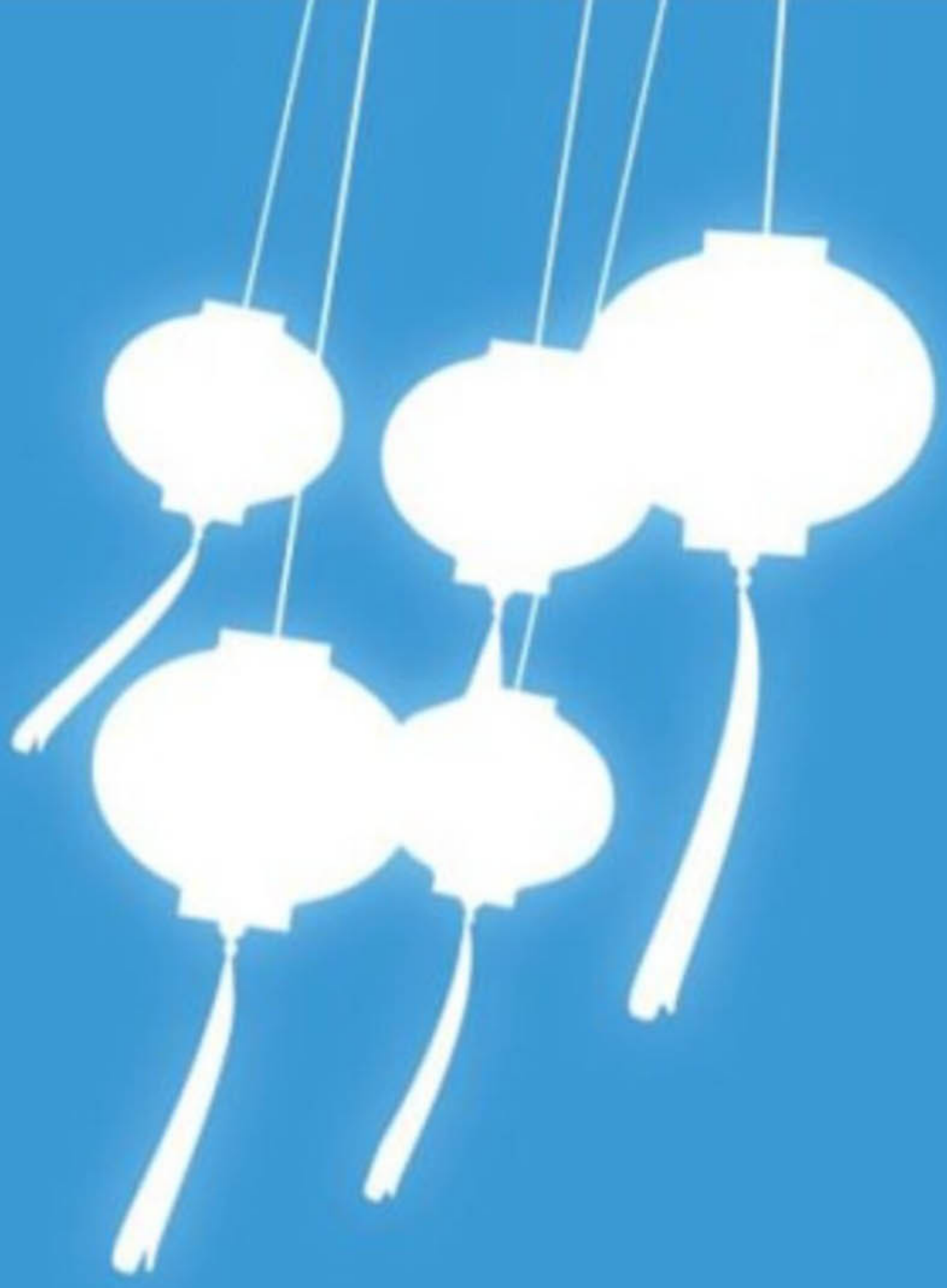
A Boho Party Plan

It makes sense, of course, that the same passions and aesthetics that go to creating the boho home also apply to boho party planning. “I’m seeing searches for boho bachelorette party ideas up four times,” says Swasti Sarna of Pinterest. “I thought that was interesting—people want this boho aesthetic and look with their bachelorette ideas.” Sarna says interest in throwing boho-themed parties for kids is also trending on the site: “I’m also seeing boho-mermaid parties trending.”

The Boho Shower

For the nature-loving girl: go boho-dreamy for a wedding, bachelorette party or baby shower. Choose an al fresco location beneath the stars or wide-open sky if weather permits. Key elements include low, long tables in a communal picnic style atop patterned area rugs. For example, use wooden pallets, old doors or thick plywood boards laid end-to-end on top of sturdy galvanized buckets or rattan baskets. Cushions, floor pillows or poufs make comfortable seating. A macramé, crocheted or fabric runner for the table in the muted pastels of a desert sunset can be anchored with buckets or other containers holding dried pampas grass. White fairy lights strung criss-cross overhead and candles, wildflowers, cacti or eucalyptus will complete the look, along with cake and cupcakes strewn with edible flowers for your guests. Finally, flower crowns for all the guests will get everyone instantly into the boho mood!



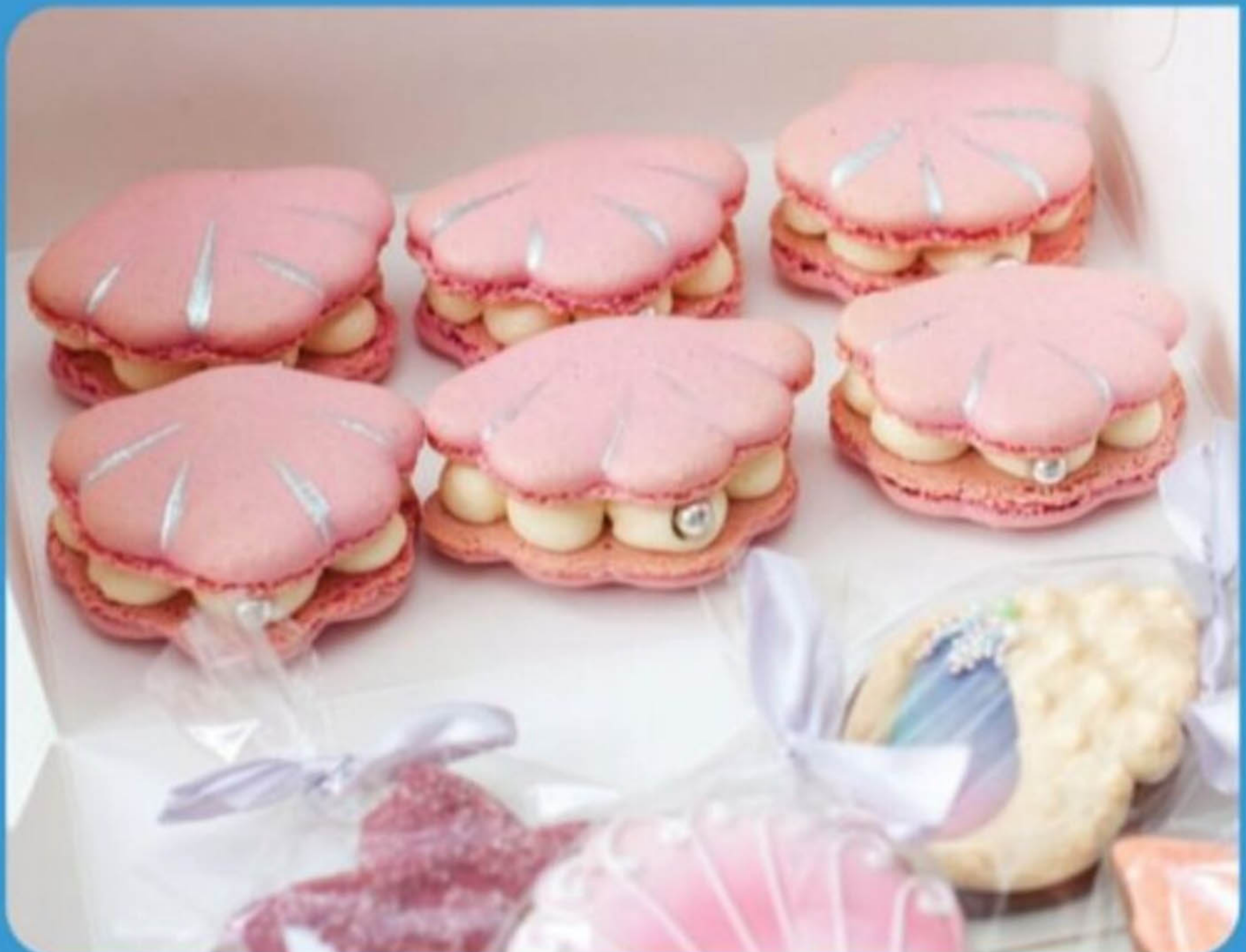


Boho Mermaid

Ariel-goes-boho. Decor ideas include wicker, rattan and woven straw accessories.

Clamshell-look cookies using two vanilla wafers or pastel macaroons held apart with frosting inside and a bubblegum "pearl" will make your guests smile. Glitter hairspray, face paint, an outdoor screening and a sing-along of *The Little Mermaid* will round out the fun.

How about a peacock chair for the birthday girl? Work with a palette of shell-like pastels and tropical blue shorelines. Seashells, treasure chests, starfish and shell wands will work for the table, while white "jellyfish" made with round paper lanterns and adorned with long streamers on the bottom can be hung overhead, along with octopi made of construction paper heads, googly eyes and long paper-chain legs. Serve gummy fish, gummy sharks, and upside-down sugar cones on cupcakes that resemble mermaid tails.



Friends of Frida

Channel all the bright, vivid colors and sensuality of artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera into a Mexican-themed blowout complete with taco-truck catering or south-of-the-border buffet (guacamole and chips, nachos, quesadillas, chili and lime corn on the cob, tacos, enchiladas, rice and beans, Mexican Caesar salad). Bring on the margaritas!

This party calls for hot, spicy color. Spread striped Mexican blankets for table coverings, and large DIY tissue-paper flowers will work with piñatas as table decor or hanging overhead amid strings of colored lights. Cacti, pompom garlands and Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) decor or face painting are the order of the day!

DIY Music Festival

The theme is the music: hire musicians or go with a DJ, karaoke or streaming. Party decor can skew 1960s Woodstock (think macramé, tie-dye, peace signs and Summer of Love) or veer modern-day Coachella. Personalized wristbands or backstage pass lanyards for your guests, glow sticks and glow-in-the-dark accessories, bubble machines or extra-large bubble wand sabers pump up the fun. Light-up LED beach balls and a glitter bar for self-application will make a joiner out of the most stubborn wallflower. Set your tables in a tepee framework draped with ribbons. Add colorful selfie-backdrops made of long, draping streamer garlands. Macramé dreamcatchers, fresh daisies, wildflowers and pampas grass in simple containers on tables are the top choice for this party. Don't forget the flower crowns or headbands. Ask guests to come in their coolest festival attire. Designated space for dancing is a must!

A Moveable Feast

The charcuterie board
is a perfect addition
to your boho chic party.

TO BEGIN, select a platter, plate or board. Marble and slate are popular picks because their surfaces stay cool to the touch—a plus when setting out meats and cheese. Wood platters and cutting boards also serve up an attractive rustic style. Or tear off a sheet of brown butcher paper, lay it down on the serving area countertop or table and arrange the charcuterie on top of that. Bonus points for writing the names of the meats and cheeses on the paper!

Before heading to the store, consider the type or theme of the board you want to design. Sweet and savory? Seasonal offerings? A tasting platter of cheddars? It can be easy to get overwhelmed with choices at the store or farmer's market and end up over-buying. Have a plan to stay on budget.

A variety of tastes (spicy to mild, smoky to smooth) and textures (crunchy to creamy) creates interest and offers something for everyone. Select a few of the popular choices below and you will be golden.

MEATS: salami, mortadella, prosciutto, serrano ham, pâté, capocollo, sopressata, calabrese, pepperoni, pancetta

CHEESE: cheddar, Brie, goat cheese, herbed cheeses and spreads, manchego, Gouda, parmesan, mozzarella, Gruyère, Limburger, gournay, pecorino

FRUIT: sliced apples (may want to spritz with lemon juice to avoid browning), sliced pears, seedless grapes (arrange as in a bunch, but cut small groups from the stem so guests can easily pick from the platter), raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, fresh figs sliced or halved, dried fruit (cranberries, apricots, cherries, etc.), cubed or sliced cantaloupe, olives without pits (marinated, stuffed or plain)

UNSHELLED NUTS (smoked, salted, unsalted, candied or spiced): walnuts, pecans, pistachios, cashews, almonds, pine nuts

SWEETS: dark chocolate squares, dark chocolate chips, candied nuts, honey for drizzling over cheese, fruit spread (like orange or fig)

DECORATIVE TOUCHES: Depending on the size of your board, you could place a ripe pear or two, a gorgeous apple or a large bunch of grapes as a focal point. Small edible flowers like marigolds, chamomile or rose petals will add fragrance and charm. Pretty little bowls can be placed on the board to hold small bits like nuts, olives, dried fruits or chocolate chips—but are not necessary, because you can also just pile those items on the platter.

When it comes time for arranging, decide how you want the platter to look and choose a focal point. For instance, if a ripe pear and a bunch of grapes, or half of a pomegranate and a few large rose blooms are the focal point, you can place them in the center of the board and layer your ingredients around them in a circular pattern or in rows that radiate like spokes from the center of a wheel. If you place the focal items in the "top" corner of the platter, the other ingredients could fan out like sunbeams or be positioned in fluid lines like little tributaries of meat, cheese, nuts and fruits originating from that corner.

Make it colorful! And once you have your edible ingredients in place, tuck sprigs of herbs or flowers into the arrangement as a finishing touch.

Feast Your Eyes

When it comes to picking flowers for a dinner party, think outside the vase.

CHEFS OFTEN SAY we eat with our eyes first and that the best meals are a feast for the senses, not just the stomach. Enter the edible bouquet. One of the prettiest ways to dress up a table is by adding flowers—not as a centerpiece, but as an ingredient—and as luck would have it, it's also one of the easiest!

Some nurseries now offer edible flower sections, and you can also shop at farmers markets, the local gourmet grocer (alongside the fresh herbs), or perhaps your own backyard. Just don't buy edible ingredients from a florist since those blooms may have been chemically treated to preserve longevity.

Colorful petals, buds and blooms can be tossed into salads or summery drinks, sprinkled over soups, baked into cookies or frozen into ice cubes or ice molds. They can also be used to adorn charcuterie and cheese plates and to decorate cakes, pies and other desserts.

Flowers offer more flash and flair than flavor. Many have a subtle spicy taste, while some petals skew sweeter. What they bring to the table, quite literally, however, is color, shape and texture. A pop of hot pink, zesty orange, yellow or crimson adds excitement to almost anything. Think like an artist and eat like a queen.

Ice, Ice Baby:

How to freeze flowers into ice cubes

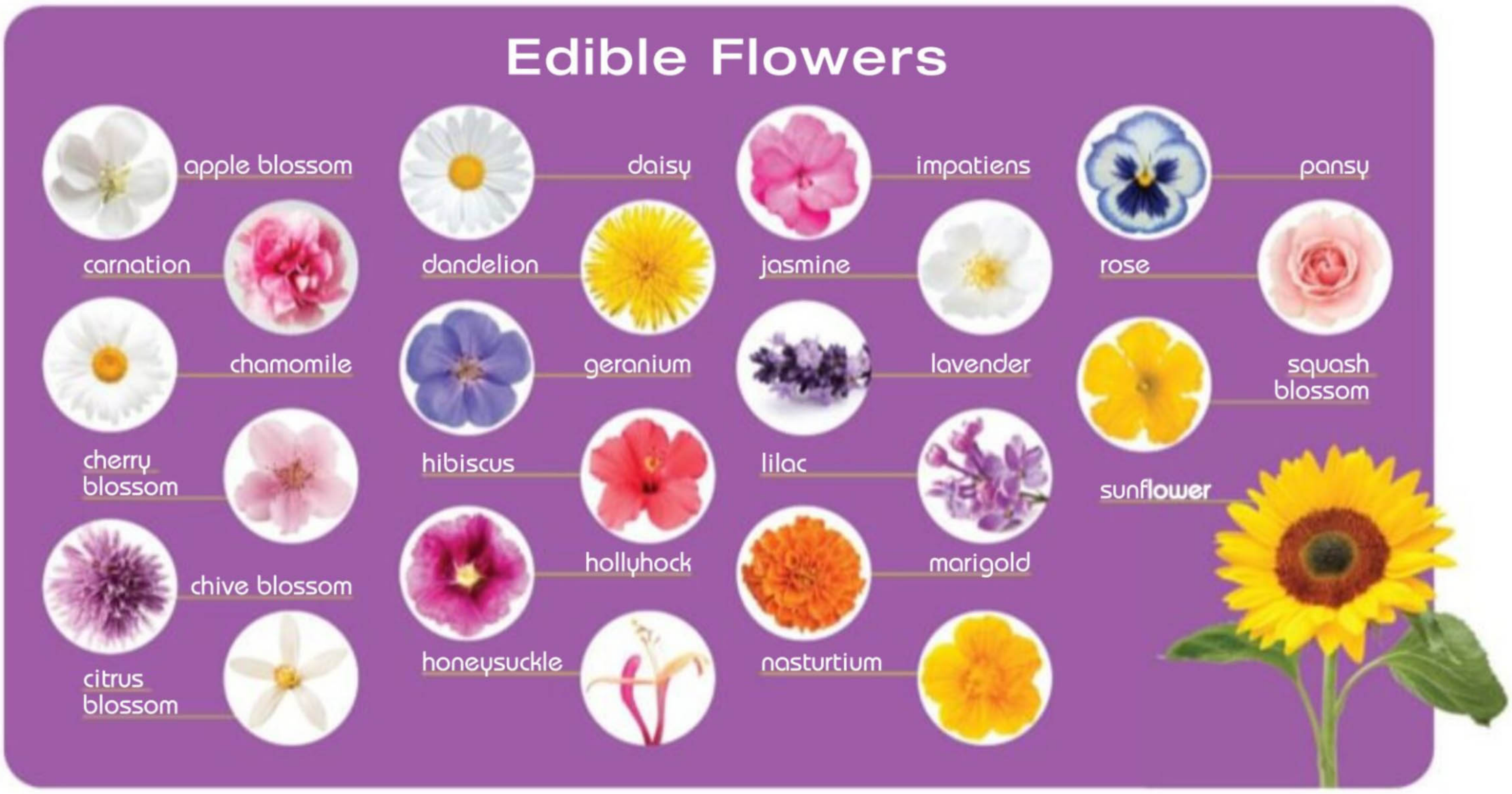
Full disclosure: If you are hosting a big bash or already stressing over a multitude of party-planning details, this is one cute-but-time-consuming trick you may want to skip. However, if you are hosting a few friends and have a little time on your hands, here's how to crank up the wow factor and make a soirée special.

What you'll need:

- silicone ice cube tray with large cube shapes
- small flowers or petals
- distilled water (or water that has been boiled, then cooled)
- time

Fill the ice cube molds almost a quarter of the way with water and place a colorful flower face down into each mold (violets, pansies, geraniums or herbs like mint or basil flowers work well). Freeze. Once frozen, add more water almost to the top and freeze again. Once the cubes have frozen a second time, add a little more water over the top and freeze for a third, final time.

When the ice cubes are ready to use, gently release them from the molds. The cubes will appear translucent once they are swimming in your beverage of choice! Sip, sip hurray!


Edible Flowers
apple blossom
carnation
chamomile
cherry blossom
chive blossom
citrus blossom
daisy
dandelion
geranium
hibiscus
hollyhock
honeysuckle
impatiens
jasmine
lavender
lilac
marigold
nasturtium
pansy
rose
squash blossom
sunflower

Bohemian Artistry

> Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.
>
> —Pablo Picasso, artist

EVERY TWO WEEKS, fiber artist and designer **Candice Luter** joins her mother and cousins to watch her grandfather play polka music, the lively bohemian music originating from the peasant dances of Czechoslovakia in the early 19th century. "We all go to watch him and his band wearing the Czech traditional costume," says Luter, who describes her heritage as half Czech, half African American, "and we can all do the polka!"

"Bohemian speaks to my roots," says the artist: "to me it is about getting together with the people you love and being intentional with your time. It's the sense of being carefree, relaxed and coming as you are—just kind of embracing life and whatever comes your way."

Luter is the award-winning founder and artistic force behind the Cedar Rapids, Iowa-based Etsy.com store Candice Luter Art + Interiors. She specializes in fiber sculptures, tactile wall hangings and custom wabi-sabi-styled mirror design. "I always say fiber art," says Luter in describing her work, "because I am not a weaver. I'm not a macramé pattern follower—so it's kind of interesting being in that realm. I didn't have the know-how, but I knew what I wanted the product to look like—so I manipulated the mediums and the fiber to get them to do what I wanted, and not necessarily what was expected."

Her unconventional approach and inventive designs were born of a relatable muse. "I wasn't finding the type and style of decor I wanted," says Luter, "so I started making things." Her creativity was rewarded when friends admired the pieces and she began selling them as a side hustle alongside her day job in sales for a commercial design firm.

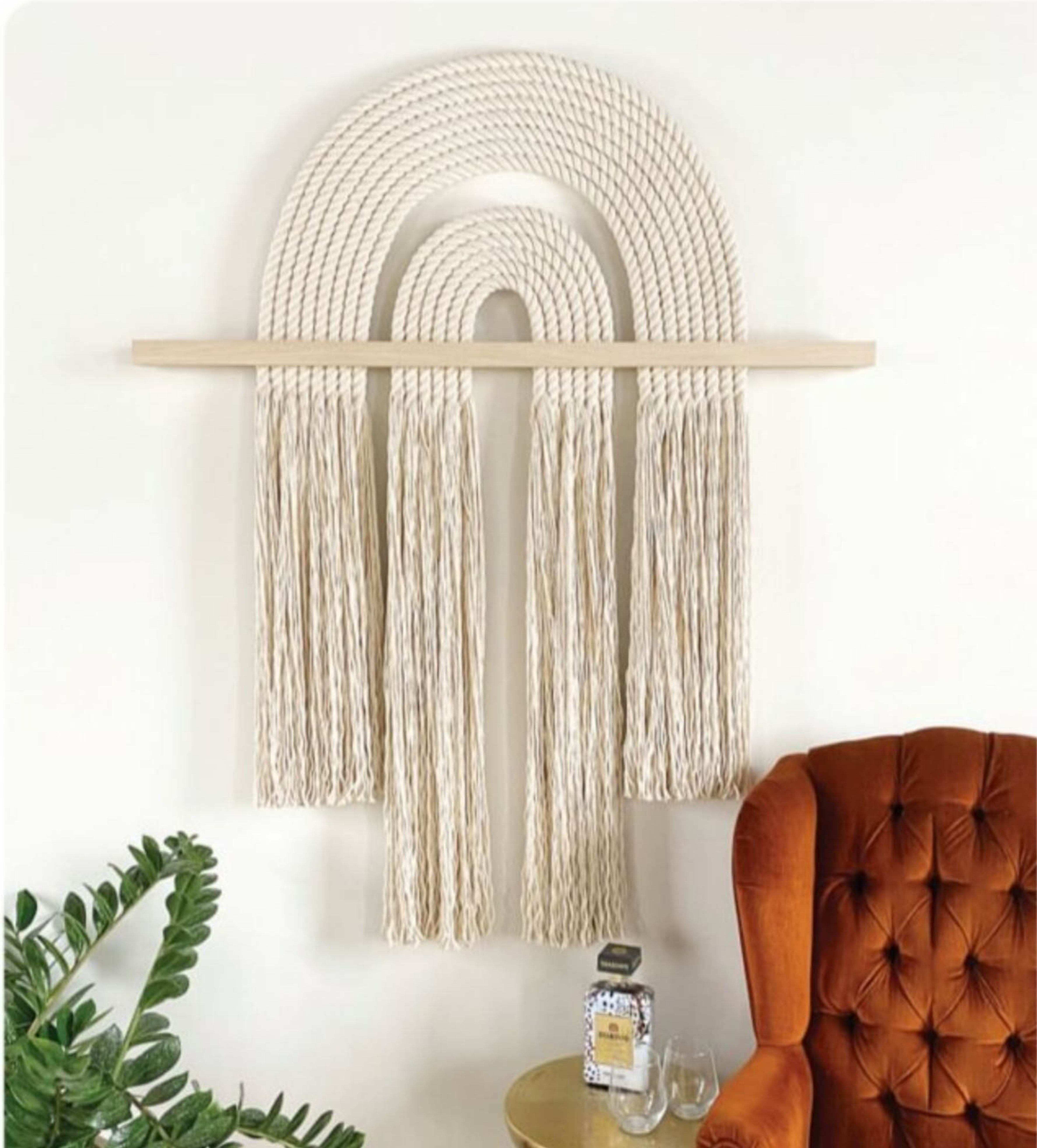
When she was permanently laid off during the COVID pandemic, Luter pivoted to pursue her passion full-time.

Creativity at Work

"I started out with these bohemian fringed mirrors," says Luter, "but lately the collection has started to take a more modern turn. Mirrors were not something I thought I would ever get into—but a lot of great designs have come from remnants or pieces that were damaged—and I have come up with new designs to cover the flaws. It has all kind of evolved from my habit of designing on a dime and not wanting to throw anything away. I like to use every bit of life in my materials."

Her ingenuity—notably, the creation of a mirror embellished with an artistic flourish of gold—earned her the Grand Prize in the 2021 Etsy Design Awards.

Luter says her favorite part of being an artist is being able to explore her own voice. "I feel like we are all on that journey in life to find out who we are,



learn our value and our worth, where we're going, and who we want to be." She adds, "Being an artist is cool because, in that way, I can constantly reinvent and rediscover myself—and to be honest, it can also be very therapeutic. There are a lot of times when I'm in the studio by myself listening to music and just working things out. Sometimes, I don't know what things are meant to become until they present themselves."

Recently, the bohemian creator finds herself fascinated by sculptural art and hieroglyphics. "My wheels are constantly turning," says Luter. "I'm always looking in odd places for inspiration—and I try not to get distracted by other people's designs. I think it's hard because in this day and age we see something and think: *Oh, that's cool—why didn't I think of that?* But that was for them, it wasn't for me."

To maintain her balance, Luter steps away from social media when she begins to feel she isn't measuring up. "It's kind of tricky," she admits; "we live in a world where we need to have that presence, but sometimes I also need to take a break."

How to Go Boho

Staying true to your heart and unique sense of style also goes for incorporating boho style into the home space.

"I'm a big fan of being as minimal as possible," says Luter, "so for me, I like to maximize space and have dual purposes for home decor and furnishings. When I think about bohemian, I picture big, oversized pillows, a relaxed or low-profile sofa and floor cushions [or poufs]. I like to tuck additional seating underneath sofa tables and things like that. Then you can pull out extra seating and make a cozy environment for everyone to be together."

Adding texture to a space is also key. "I am always telling people, if you're not sure how to revamp a space, just add neutral texture because it brings conversation and depth to a wall, or a pillow, or whatever—it adds that something that I think is often missing." Her own tactile wall hangings are often crafted in neutral, natural-colored rope and fiber. She believes people respond to the earthy tones because "there is something calming about them."

“You wouldn’t think that putting a very neutral, ivory piece of art on a white wall would make a difference, but it really brightens up a space—and the texture is critical.”

How to Be an Artist

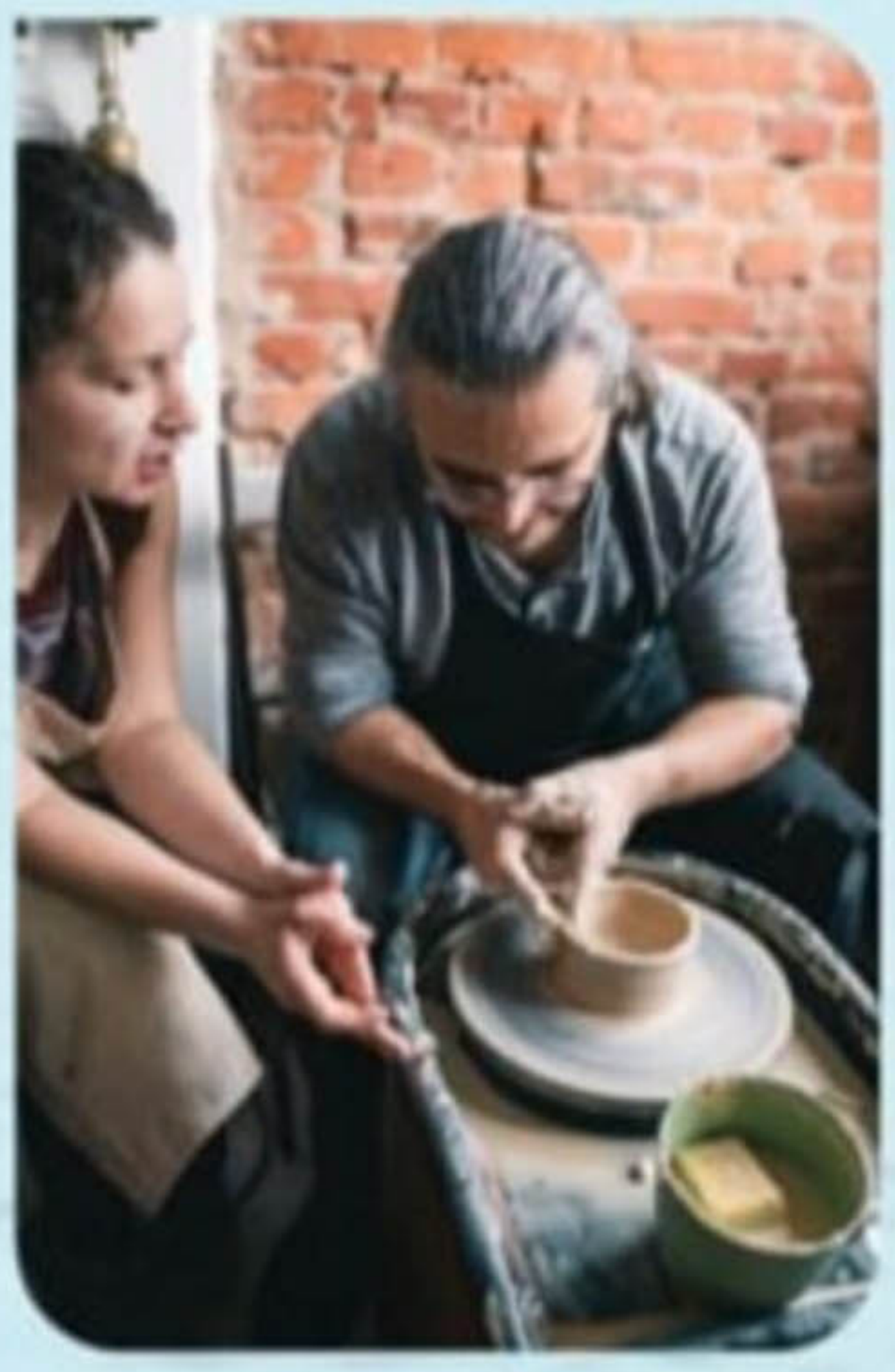
For those interested in following in Luter’s artistic, bohemian footsteps and pursuing their own passions on a professional level, the artist has this advice: *don’t allow circumstance to define who you are.*

“On paper, there are a lot of things that I should not have been able to do,” notes Luter, “being a single mom, struggling with finances and trying to do something with my artwork—but I actually used that to my advantage. I had to think more creatively and use the limited resources I had.”

Luter’s conclusion: “What I’m really preaching is, whatever you think your obstacles are, they are really an opportunity—use them as a jumping-off point.” That’s Bohemian style in a nutshell.

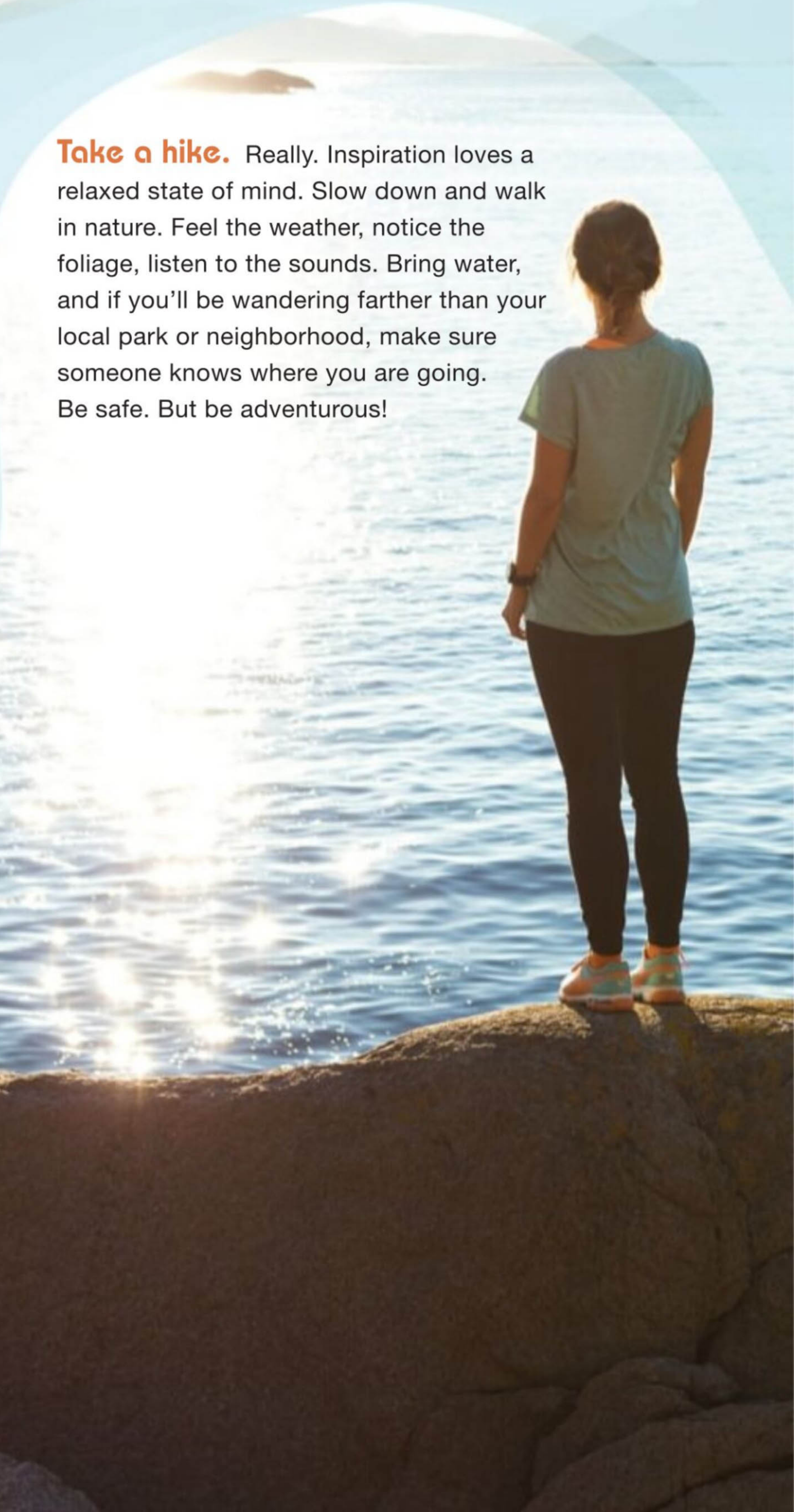
Getting Into the Flow

Creativity and inspiration are muscles that require regular stretching and exercise to stay happy and strong. Here are some ideas to keep you fit.



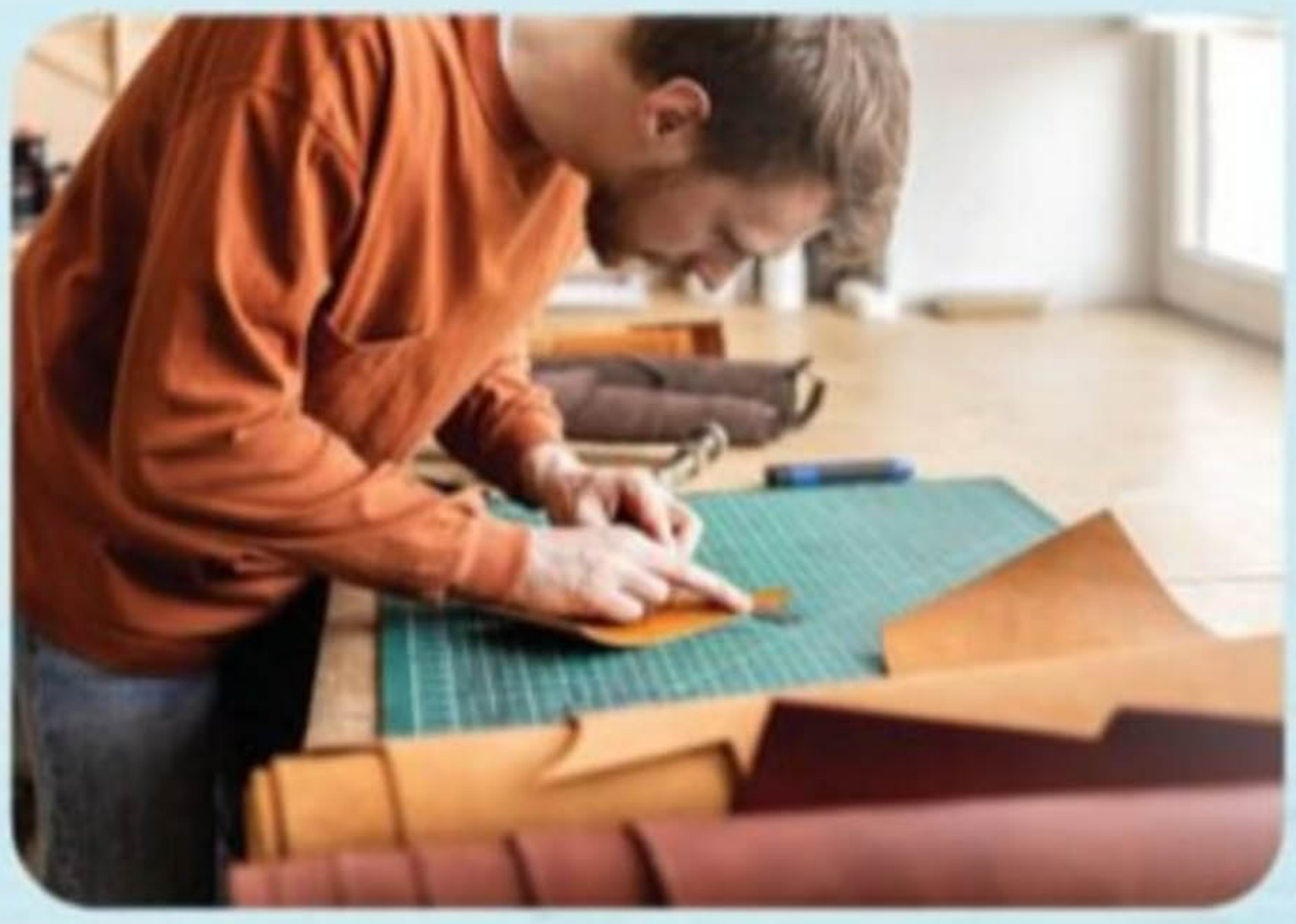
Take a class. It has never been easier to find a class, in-person or online, to suit a myriad of interests and artistic pursuits (from ceramics and painting to weaving, gardening, photography, music or mosaics). Get your Google on and find out what is available in your area or what you can tap into online. Be brave and try something new.

Take a hike. Really. Inspiration loves a relaxed state of mind. Slow down and walk in nature. Feel the weather, notice the foliage, listen to the sounds. Bring water, and if you'll be wandering farther than your local park or neighborhood, make sure someone knows where you are going. Be safe. But be adventurous!



Read. Read. Read. Biographies of people you admire. Travel-specific books describing places you want to go. Subject-specific books with gorgeous photos and smart, inspiring text. Or perhaps choose a book you would not usually select and experience a new genre, subject or perspective. Check out used-book stores, independent bookstores, garage sales, the free book box in your neighborhood, the library, or go online for e-reader downloads.

Stroll a museum. Wander where you want. Many museums offer free, docent-led tours that bring the collections to life or Wi-Fi-enabled smartphone audio apps that allow guests to listen to behind-the-scenes stories. Check for budget-friendly “free” days on the museum’s calendar, or support a museum you especially enjoy and become a paid member.



Find a kit. For every craft there is a DIY kit complete with materials, instructions and possibly an online video tutorial. Many artists believe exploring a new medium can serve as inspiration and motivation within their primary artistic endeavors. Look online for kits on everything from fabric dyeing and macramé to mosaic, woodworking, water colors, terrariums, stained glass, leather crafting and more. When trying something new, however, be kind to yourself and silence the self-criticism. Nobody gets it perfect on the first try. Have fun.

Your Boho Home

There is only one wrong way to decorate a home or live a life, and that is by not being true to your heart.

WHAT MARKS US as different and separates us from the pack are the same things that spark joy and make us more interesting. Boho chic embodies that. Bring on the color, the patterns, the sparkly, shiny things and all the plants. Stay weird. Fly your flag. Celebrate vibrant maximalism, nature-themed minimalism and everything in between—celebrate it all.

Diverse as it is inclusive, boho design and decor incorporates trends without being tied to them. Updated? Yes. Beautiful? Definitely. Rigidly in keeping with arbitrary do's and don'ts or in's and out's lists? No.

Find joy in creating, assembling and curating a home, but don't let the adventure or the *should*'s overwhelm you. Learn to live with the temporary, in-between stages. The best homes, and by that we mean the ones remembered for their warmth, comfort, character and hospitality, take time. Savor the process.

The thrill of the hunt—for the lamp, rug, vintage artwork, couch or chair that suits your style as well as your budget—is part of the fun. And speaking of shopping, it's important to remember that boho is inherently budget-friendly. High-low style means mixing in the flea market finds with the fancy splurges—and it's a great way to add individual style and a good provenance story. Expensive choices aren't always the best choices. Shop accordingly and save—or experiment with DIY.

Developing a signature entertaining style and learning how to relax and unwind in the way that truly rejuvenates your spirit—that is another area that cannot be rushed but is best learned instead through trial and error. Have fun, make mistakes, move on.

Stay curious, live simply, seek beauty, and be kind always. ♥

Viva la vie Bohème.

BOHO Home

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The boho look is chic meets comfort.

It is vintage meets contemporary. It is luxury meets au natural. In short, it is your personal style artfully showcased throughout your home. **BOHO Home** is a roadmap for decorating your home with freedom and designing ways to get the most from it, always with an eye toward beauty and a life filled with family, friends and joy. In **BOHO Home**, you'll find inspiration from film, nature, crafts, food and music. It all leads to a beautiful home that looks like it came together with little effort and is all very much your own!